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FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

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THE DIRECTORY

Battle turns to bitterness and abuse

Tories attack 'bare-faced lies by Blair'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR was accused of telling "bare-faced despicable lies" yesterday as the general election campaign degenerated to a level of bitterness and abuse rarely seen in British politics.

Stung by claims by the Labour leader that the Tories intended to abolish the state pension, the Prime Minister last night led a barrage of attacks against Mr Blair. Mr Major said that the Labour leadership were "plain liars" and at Conservative headquarters Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, accused Mr Blair directly eight times of lying over pensions and alleging the Tories would put VAT on food.

Mr Dorrell said of Mr Blair: "The tougher the questioning, the more he panics. The more he panics the more he lies — telling bare-faced despicable lies."

With the latest poll last night showing Labour's lead steady at 18 per cent the party's leadership dismissed the assault on Mr Blair as the act of "desperate people resorting to desperate measures". They claim their attack had "struck a massive nerve" and decided last night to change their campaign plans for today to keep the spotlight on pensions.

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The Tory attacks were designed partly to damage Mr Blair's integrity on the night when Labour's election broadcast showed him chatting at home with his children and talking about his beliefs. Mr Dorrell said: "Today he peddled lies about our proposals for the state pension with the sole intent of whipping up fears among pensioners."

There was more. "Once again this morning we saw how he panicked when faced with serious questions. A rabbit caught in the headlights looks positively relaxed when compared with Mr Blair answering a question on economics."

Scarcely less severe was Dr Mawhinney. He said that in statement after statement Mr Blair had been telling lies about state pensions, the NHS and Tory plans to put VAT on food in a "cynical pre-programmed attempt" to divert attention from Labour's weaknesses on Europe and the economy.

It was hard, he said, "not to hold in a degree of contempt someone who deliberately sets out to smear and to scare the elderly people of this country".

If the lie claims had been made in the Commons the Speaker would have forced ministers to withdraw them. Such attacks are deemed "unparliamentary language".

It was an unexpected turn of events on a day when the Tories had begun their final week of campaigning focussing on the economy and the alleged £12 billion black hole in the plans by Labour, which in turn had set out to spell out to voters the choice facing them next week.

John Prescott, the Deputy Leader, said: "They are resorting to abuse because they know they are losing the argument. Tony Blair is talking about the future of the country while the Tories have nothing left to say and nothing left to offer other than personalised attacks."

Labour bases its claim about the threat to pension on the Tory manifesto which, it says, paves the way for the full privatisation of the state pension. When outlining the new Basic Pension Plus scheme in March ministers insisted that the basic pension would be protected. But Labour says that if pension funds were to go bankrupt there was no guarantee of where the money would come from.

The Tories have admitted that their scheme will cost £160 million in the first year, accumulating each year to a maximum of £7 billion by 2040, but saving £40 billion in the long term.

It was Mr Blair's launch of Labour's final week of campaigning that so infuriated the Tories. He was flanked on one side by a list of Labour pledges. On the other side, there was a list of "threats" posed by the Coservatives.

Major rejects Saatchi advertising blitz

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR has overruled plans by Lord Saatchi for a big advertising campaign in the last week before the election because the Conservative Party's finances have already been stretched to the limit.

In a sign of deepening tension at Central Office, it was disclosed last night that the Prime Minister had rejected a personal plea from the advertising mastermind. Lord Saatchi lobbied Mr Major on his flight back from Aberdeen on Wednesday evening.

But the Prime Minister, who has taken a close interest in the advertising campaign, rejected Lord Saatchi's proposal for a blitz in national newspapers, partly because he feared that it could be interpreted as a sign of panic. The party has spent about £11 million in the past 18 months.

Conservative Party sources indicated that the envisaged campaign could have cost more than £1 million.

A friend of the Prime Minister said last night: "He is determined not to leave the party's finances in a mess at the end of the election campaign. Budget figures were agreed. We are going to stick to them."

CHRIS HARRIS

Tony Blair at home in Islington yesterday. He pledged "a fresh start in politics"

Labour 'will stay radical'

BY PETER RIDDELL

TONY BLAIR promises this morning in an interview with *The Times* that he will be as radical as Prime Minister as he has been in changing the Labour Party.

Talking in the drawing room of his Islington home, a relaxed Mr Blair says he has discovered "a real sense of confidence" as the campaign has progressed. But he is cautious about specifics and putting at risk the election victory which he and his advisers increasingly expect.

However, Mr Blair seeks to give the impression that, despite the caution of the party's manifesto and election campaign, a Labour government would over time make a big difference in education, the health service and welfare.

"There is something inherently improbable about my having been a radical leader of the Labour Party and then being a cautious Prime Minister. I wouldn't be. I'd be a radical Prime Minister, but it would be a a different kind of radicalism." But he argues that radicalism should not be defined by how much government spends or raising taxes, but rather by raising standards in schools and the like.

He says Labour has drawn up detailed preparations for forming a government. He hinted at the possibility of some novel appointments in government and in Whitehall: "I believe in making the broadest use of the talents we have available." He promises to offer "a fresh start in politics which will not be tribal".

Mr Blair goes out of his way to praise John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, who has had "a fantastic campaign" and has done "wonderfully". He is in "no doubt" that Mr Prescott would be "a key player in the Labour Government".

Throughout the interview, he emphasises how a Labour administration would make a difference through step-by-step, rather than dramatic, changes — in the Queen's Speech, in the midsummer "welfare to work" Budget and at the Amsterdam Euro summit. "I'm not myself a great believer in a dazzling first 100 days which then disappears up in smoke. People don't want a revolution, they want a fresh start."

He said people wanted "tangible proof that the party that calls itself new Labour is genuinely new Labour". This means not trying to reverse everything that has happened over the past 18 years but in putting right the things that were wrong.

Interview, page 9

Mother aged 63 sets record after treatment for fertility

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A 63-year-old Californian who lied about her age to get fertility treatment has become the world's oldest woman on record to have a baby.

The unidentified mother, whose 6 lb 5 oz daughter was delivered safely, was 15 months older when she gave birth than Rosanna Della Corte, an Italian who was 62 when she became a mother in 1994.

The California birth occurred on November 7, 1996, but has only just been disclosed in a the medical journal, *Fertility and Sterility*. The story immediately raised ethical questions about the maximum age — now unspecified — for patients of fertility therapy.

Few details about the mother, 63 years and nine months old, were released, other than that she is a Philippine-American, had a comparatively easy pregnancy and breast-fed her infant. She suffered high blood pressure and gestational diabetes, but nothing that bed rest and a good diet could not ease.

She was treated by doctors from the University of Southern California's Orwellian-sounding Programme for Assisted Reproduction, from whom she kept her true age. When she first went to them she claimed instead to be 50 — like many Filipino women she looked young for her age — and for three years she managed to maintain the charade. "Had she disclosed her actual age she would not have qualified for treatment here, since the programme uses an arbitrary upper age limit of 55," the university said.

Doctors learnt her real age only during the first trimester of the pregnancy. The pregnancy was achieved by taking a donated egg and using sperm from the woman's 60-year-old husband. The couple, who have been married for 16 years, were previously childless.

When 62-year-old Signora Dell Corte had her baby in 1994 the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, condemned the birth. It said that "the means by which her desire was realised is in open contrast to God's plan".

Yesterday, opinion in the American medical world on the California birth was divided as to whether it was right to allow such an elderly woman to produce. Dr Ronald Munson, a medical ethics lecturer at the University of Missouri, said that the setting of maximum ages by fertility clinics was little more than "age discrimination".

Dr Stanford Korenman, of the University of California Los Angeles, asked: "Would you rather have a 63-year-old mother who is wealthy, or would you rather have a 14-year-old impoverished girl who is a mother?"

It was pointed out that society sees little wrong with old men siring offspring — Tony Randall, the actor, recently became a father at 77 — and that reactions against the California birth may simply

Continued on page 2, col 5

Dr Stuttaford, page 2

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Directors of 14 charities are paid more than £100,000 a year and the average salary of chief executives in the top 100 voluntary organisations is £75,000, according to a survey of the nation's 3,000 main good causes. The charities have an annual turnover of £13 million .... Page 6

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Huge Roman villa found

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

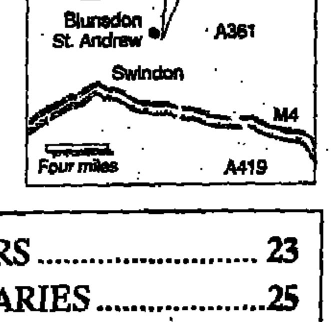
WHAT may may be the largest late Roman villa in Britain has been discovered on a building site four miles north of Swindon.

Developers of a housing estate at Groundwell Ridge, near Blunsdon St Andrew, discovered an impressive wall about 3ft high when driving a road through the site. They immediately stopped work and, as required by Department of the Environment guidelines, provided access for archaeologists. Investigations have been organised by Bryn Walters of the Association for Roman Archaeology.

No actual archaelogical digging has yet been undertaken, but a team from the archaeometry division of English Heritage has used geophysical surveying methods to estimate the size of the building. The team's preliminary results suggest that it lay within an enclosure up to 150 yards long and that it was not the only building on the site.

Indications are that it is a very large villa or a temple dating from the last century of Roman occupation. From its size, it could prove one of the most important ever found. Mr Walters said yesterday that he was not yet ready to comment. "It's too early to say anything," he said.

Swindon is proving a productive area for Roman remains. Last month a team of archeaologists reported the discovery of a Mediterranean-style villa south of the town. The site, in the valley of the Og, has produced a large double-handled jar, probably for holding beer, and the finely carved bone handle of a folding razor. Mr Walters was also involved with that find, which he described as being like "an Italian atrium house of the type found at Pompeii".



☐ Another Roman find has been made in Kent, where pieces of mosaic were uncovered when a field near Faversham was ploughed. Dr Paul Wilkinson, a part-time lecturer at the University of Kent, made the find while carrying out a survey for the local Swale Borough Council. He says that the pieces of mosaic are of very high quality, "as good, if not better, than any other found in England".

English Heritage surveyed the site before Easter and found evidence of at least one building. Dr Wilkinson believes that it may have been a country mansion owned by an important family and built as a weekend retreat. There are examples of these in Italy and France, but none has so far been found in Britain.

Yellow line snares its inventor 50 years on

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

THERE was sweet revenge for Britain's motorists yesterday when George Musgrave fell victim to his own invention — the yellow line.

Mr Musgrave, who came up with the idea 50 years ago this month, was fined £20 for parking on a yellow line. He saw the funny side as he explained how he had fallen foul of his detested invention. "The law is the law and I broke it," he said at his home in Eastbourne. "I needed to carry out an errand for my wife, who is disabled, and put the car on a single yellow line, which I thought meant I could stop for unloading. I was in the shop just five minutes and when I got back, the warden was walking off up the street. I tried to appeal but it was too late."

Mr Musgrave, 81, a former missionary, first suggested yellow lines while he was working in Greenwich in 1947. The local council ran a competition to find ways of improving road safety and he entered a selection of ideas, from putting railings outside school gates to preventing parking 20 yards either side of a zebra crossing — measures which are still in use today.

Painting lines along the pavement or road to stop cars from parking came to him when he was almost knocked down crossing the road after emerging from between parked cars. The council gave him a prize of £2 for the idea.

There were years of debate before yellow lines were accepted by the Government and the motoring establishment. They were first tried in London and in 1956 the streets of Slough turned to gold as it became the centre for experiment. Even in 1968, the Government was still implementing legislation trying to decide where yellow lines should be used and what, precisely, they should mean.

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Human rights appeal by bereaved husbands who want same benefits as women

Widowers' claim for cash equality 'may cost £490m'

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

TWO widowers have lodged claims against the Government after being denied payments and allowances available only to bereaved women. *The Treasury says* that giving equal rights to bereaved men could cost £490 million a year.

The Child Poverty Action Group, which is helping to support one of the cases to the European Court of Human Rights, says that virtually *every other nation in western* Europe treats widowers and widows *equally. In Britain*, men are still deemed to be the breadwinners.

The two men both gave up full-time work because their wives had cancer. Kevin Willis, 40, from Bristol, has *launched proceedings* after discovering that he is not eligible for some state benefits to help raise his two children. Christopher Crossland, 38, from Wiltshire, who has three children, has lodged a claim *over the refusal* of the Inland Revenue to award him bereavement allowance.

An estimated 20,000 to 40,000 widowed fathers who could benefit from the various allowances if the claims succeed. The Government says that "equalising" all widows' benefits could also include the widow's pension.

Mr Willis's wife Marlene had been the family's main breadwinner as a local government offficial before her illness. *He husband, who had* been repeatedly been made redundant, finally had to give up his job as a field service engineer to nurse her, and then to look after their children, aged 6 and 8. Last November, he put in claims for money equal to a lump *sum "widow's payment"* worth £1,000, and the widowed mother's allowance. *He* was turned down, but receives *child benefit*.

His case is backed by the Child Poverty Action Group and the Campaign for Widowed Fathers' Benefits. The *European Convention on* Human Rights guarantees the right to family life.

"The children suffered a grievous loss when they lost their mother," said Mr Willis. "It seems very unfair that they *should suffer financially* as well just because they have lost their mother and not their father."

The widowed mother's allowance, a benefit for widowed mothers *who have not* remarried, is currently worth £62.45p a week, with an extra £9.90 a week for the eldest child and £11.20 a week each for other children. This brings the total sum Mr Willis says *he is denied to* £83.55p a week, in addition to the £1,000 lump sum. *He is using up his* savings to keep the family solvent, and cannot have income support because he has savings.

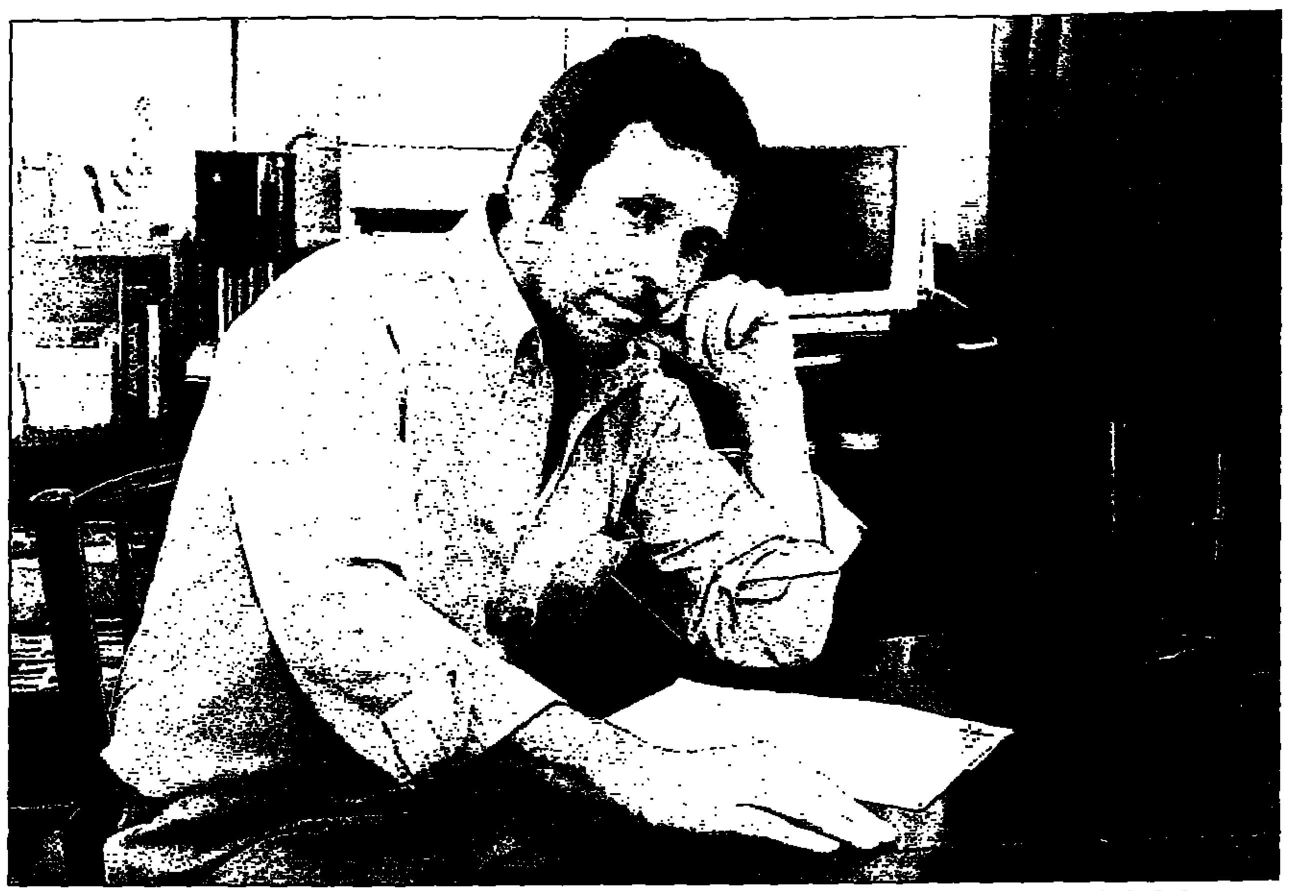
Mr Crossland's claim has the backing of Liberty. Mr Crossland, 38, gave up *his full*-time job as director of one of *the Unipart companies in 1995* to look after his children when his wife, Alexandra, died of cancer. The bereavement allowance for the tax year 1996/97 was £1,790. He was told the allowance was avail*able only to widows* "because generally speaking, the financial problems are greater for a woman than a man. This is because the husband is usually the main breadwinner so the loss of his income has *greater effect*."

Mr Crossland works part-time when his children — Emma, 13, Peter, 10, and Alice, 6 — are at school. He said: "I find this rule deeply offensive *to woman*, because it says their economic contribution is worthless. *It's a great injsutice* to the memory of my wife. The present policy places a higher value on the life of a man, and in reality says that in the UK a woman's life is worthless."

Realistically it could take *five years for the cliams to be* decided. Labour have pledged to incorporate *the European* Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, which would enable British courts here to look at such claims. The Child Poverty Action Group *says virtually every* European country provides such benefits equally to widowers and widows. Only Britain, Switzerland and the Czech republic do not.

CPAG's legal officer David *Thomas said: "Based on re*cent cases from the Human *Rights* court, we believe we have a very strong case. However, rather than force Kevin to take his case all the way to Strasbourg, we would like to see whoever is in power *after the election change the* rules to reflect the reality of *modern life*."

The CPAG says that women now make up 45 per cent of the UK workforce, and that married women bring in the *wages in nearly a quarter* of households. Even if Treasury estimates of the cost of equalisation are accurate, the action group argues that the figures cannot justify the discrimination. *It points* out that other state benefits exist for *widowers in financial need*, such as income support and family credit, which cannot justify the discrimination between the sexes. The Campaign for Widowed Fathers' Benefits estimates that if the law was changed, about 20,000 men would be entitled to claim, *with many more* eligible for the lump sum payment and the separate widow's pension.



Kevin Willis: "It seems unfair that children should suffer because they lose their mother not their father"

Maker of new contraceptive admits to 450 pregnancies

By A Staff Reporter

THE makers of a new contraceptive device hailed as the biggest breakthrough in family planning since the 1960s *admitted last night that at* least 450 women have become pregnant while using it.

The Persona, which has the backing of the Catholic Church, has been bought by more than 100,000 women *since going on sale at Boots* chemists last October.

The device works by measuring hormone levels in urine to establish when a woman is at her most fertile. It includes a monitor, which displays a green light when it is safe to have sex and a red one when the user is fertile.

Unipath, *the manufacturers*, told BBC1's *Watchdog Healthcheck* programme, that it know of at least 450 pregnancies and that the company has *recently* reduced its claimed success rate for the *product from 95 to 94 per cent*.

Persona was marketed as an alternative to the condom, — but family planning statistics give condoms a 98 per cent success rate. *Dr Judy Murty* of the Marie Stopes Centre in Leeds said: "Persona is best for people in a stable relationship who want to plan fam*ilies. If you didn't want to* get pregnant and if you would choose to have an abortion if you had an unwanted pregnancy, I don't think Persona is the thing to use."

Leendert Staal, chairman of *Unipath, last night defended* the device. "No method of contraception is 100 per cent reliable," he said.

Woolf urges health dispute reforms

By Ian Murray
Medical correspondent

ENOUGH money to run a large health service trust is being spent annually on legal costs to deal with negligence claims from patients, Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, said last night.

Calling for fresh ways to settle claims *for compensation, he said the present* system for resolving disputes was not designed to meet the needs of health carers and their patients but the interests of the legal profession.

Lord Woolf, who last year completed a review of ways to streamline litigation, *said that when his survey* ended there were 20,000 claims outstanding against the NHS, some of them for more than £1 million. Over 90 per cent of the litigants were on legal aid, so in the vast majority of cases the public purse was paying for both sides.

The situation of those who did not *qualify for legal aid was also difficult*. Equally, health carers were trapped in a nightmare situation, with hurtful allegations being made against them even though their only aim had been to help *the patient. Litigation made it impossible* for them to talk to the patient about what happened. "The concern *is that if there is* an apology or if even an explanation is given, this could be used in evidence against them or prejudice their position with the medical defence bodies."

Lord Woolf, giving the spring lecture to the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, said that he was keen to see ways of keeping cases out of court. There needed to be more use of the health service ombudsman and mechanisms to find out from the start what the patient wanted.

"*During the course of my inquiry I was* told by litigants that all they were seeking was an explanation or apology, which was never forthcoming. All too often ... they are forced into litigation because of *the lack of communication* by those representing the medical profession."

Lord Woolf said the whole process should be streamlined, with the patient notifying the defendant of the grounds of his claim at least three months before a legal action starts. That would make it possible for the health authority to investigate the claim and see whether it was worth contesting. Openness on all sides was essential.

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Mother's age is more of a problem as child grows up

MEDICAL BRIEFING

THIRTY years ago, doctors thought that an ageing woman's fertility was governed by the state of her uterus, as well as her ovaries.

It was assumed that beyond a certain age her uterus was finished. It was present but old and shrivelled; it would be as *incapable of action in the* labour ward as an aged Chelsea Pensioner would be at the front.

This earlier generation of gynaecologists have been proved wrong. The uterus *springs to life when treated* with the appropriate hormones — oestrogens only in the first half of the month with progestogens in the second — analogues of those which coursed through her body in her youth. The correct balance *of hormones given at the right* time and in the right strength, hormones such as those also used in HRT, can so revitalise the uterus and its blood supply that it is capable of maintaining a 40-week pregnancy even *if the woman is in her* seventies.

Conversely, the quality of a woman's eggs, the ova, deteriorate even though she may still be ovulating regularly. Fertility in a woman in her mid to late thirties begins to *fail not because of her uterus*, but because the ova are past their best. There is as yet no way of improving the quality of ova.

When Sam Abdalla, a consultant at the fertility clinic at *the Lister Hospital*, London, was told that a 63-year-old American woman had had a baby, he replied: "Oh my God. This is no advance, no breakthrough, for there is no technical difference between prep*aring a woman's uterus for an* embryo whether she is 40, 50, 60, 70 or even presumably 80.

"As obstetricians we do not only have a duty, but also a legal responsibility, to look after the child's interests. Doctors have to consider *what it* would be like for a child still in *its early teens to have to look* after a mother who might well *already be physically* or mentally disabled. There is also of course a distinct possibility that they might have been orphaned by this age."

At the Lister hospital, 50 is the cut-off age for fertility treatment, after which *any* attempt to secure a pregnancy would be considered *only in* the most exceptional of cir*cumstances*.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Mother aged 63

Continued from page 1

be sexist. Scientific advances have made it safer for old women to become *mothers* and people now tend to live longer, healthier lives. To have a child around the house might help keep pensioners *young at heart*.

Opponents argued that fer*tility clinicians* had a duty to consider the future of the child. Dr Abraham Munabi, an infertility specialist from Pennsylvania, said: "At our clinic we have a maximum entry age of 52, which is the average age for the onset of menopause. Women must leave the programme when they reach 55. Let's be realistic: *we do not want children to* grow up orphans." Dr Munabi said that he turns away two couples a month from his clinic for age reasons. Would-be patients often lie about their age, and the clinic *makes discreet checks. In the* California case, the mother *reportedly* provided documents which assured doctors that she was in her 50s.

If the California couple are prosperous, they stand a chance of becoming even richer. Lucrative offers were last night being touted by media organisations keen to have their exclusive *story. But* for the moment, it seemed, the couple are *happy to settle for* the bounty of parenthood and *the joys of the soiled nappy*.

Stamp of approval for royal display

By Robin Young

AVID stamp collectors might be forgiven for being resentful that the Queen has the finest stamp collection *in the world*, without apparently ever having licked a *stamp mount once in her adult life*.

If they do feel aggrieved, they were not showing it yesterday at the Stamp '97 Exhibition at Wembley where some of the Queen's prize specimens were on display *for the first time*.

"The *royal* interest in stamp collecting has done wonders for the whole business," said Raglan Thwaites, who had travelled from Yorkshire for the show. "When did you ever hear of a royal train spotter?"

The Queen's loan of ten panels for the *exhibition excited great interest. Her* display included two extremely rare Penny *Blacks*, some of the earliest experiments in postmarking, and the artists' proofs and essays for the Coronation and Silver Jubilee stamp sets.

Peter Jennings of the Royal Philatelic *Society said: "The Queen's collection is* the finest anywhere. This is a rare opportunity to see something that normally collectors and the public would never have access *to*." *The royal collection* began with Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, *the second son* of Queen Victoria. *When* financially embarrassed, he sold it to his elder brother the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII. Edward added examples from all the colonies, dependent territories and later dominions which fell under his aegis. The collecting was continued by George V *and filled* 325 *red* albums when it was passed on to the Queen's father, George VI, also a keen philatelist.

Leading article, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

New rule means 25 weddings invalid

At least 25 couples who married in *the Irish Republic* will have to go through the ceremonies again because they failed to abide by a new three-month notification rule (Audrey Magee writes).

They were supposed to register *their intention* to marry at least three months before the ceremony. *However*, bureaucracy and the new rules got the better of them and they ignored the legislation or completed forms with the *wrong registrars*.

The Government has decleared their marriages invalid. The only way they can ensure *that* they are legally wed is by going through the ceremony again.

The couples have fallen foul of the 1995 Family Law Act which compels couples to notify the local registrar in writing of *their intention to* marry. Previously, a couple had to notify only the parish priest.

Couples are exempt for the *three-month* ruling only if a judge grants them a special *dispensation. Eithne* FitzGerald, a junior minister, said considerable steps had been taken to inform the public of the changes. "The couples walked into the situation with their eyes open," she said.

Police on guard against hooligans

A nationwide police operation is under way to stop football hooligans rampaging across Europe when England competes in World Cup and friendly matches this sum*mer. Officers fear hooligans* will strike in Germany, Poland and France when England plays four matches in 11 days. A source said hooligans could be planning a series of battles when England play *Poland in Katowice on May* 31. From June 3 England take part in a four-nation competition in France against France, Italy and Brazil.

Violent prisoner sues for assault

A high-risk prisoner who admits he is "very violent" and is serving four life sentences is suing the Home Office for damages after complaining of rough treatment by warders. *Anthony Steele*, 31, who has tried to murder two inmates and assaulted prison officers, said that he had been left "hurting all over. I accept that I have been very, very violent, but that *doesn't give them the right to* do what they did to me," he *told* the Mayors and City of London County Court. The case continues.

School raffles car for teacher

A school is to raffle a car so it *can replace a teacher lost* because of budget cuts. Governors at Kirkburton Church of England first school, near Huddersfield in west Yorkshire, hope to raise £20,000 and restore the staff to four *for the 105 pupils*. The cut imposed last year by Kirklees council meant that Kirkburton's four classes of 25 pupils were reduced to three of 35. Joyce Worsfold, the headmistress, said: "There is no point in blaming the *Government*, because *that does not help the children*."

IRA fugitive held after 14 years

A convicted IRA bomber who escaped from the Maze prison 14 years ago was arrested yesterday at his home in the Irish Republic, where he had been living in full view of the law. Dermot Joseph McNally, one of Britain's *most wanted* terrorists, was arrested in *Sligo by the Irish police* following a request from the *Royal* Ulster Constabulary, who wish to extradite him. McNally had been serving three life sentences for bombing in Northern when he escaped with 37 other prisoners during a mass breakout.

[illegible]

£175,000 for fashion designer after gas fire leak destroyed career

McRae: loss of *memory*

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

A FASHION designer who was forced to give up his career after suffering carbon monoxide poisoning from his council flat gas fire over several years has received £175,000 damages.

Allan McRae, 46, a council tenant with the London Borough of Camden, discovered in 1993 that his gas fire was defective after experiencing loss of memory and lack of concentration. He lodged a claim for compensation in which his lawyers said the fire had never been serviced or inspected and that the north London council, as landlord, had failed in its contractual and statutory duty to repair and take reasonable care to see the tenant was safe from personal injury caused by defects on the premises.

Mr McRae's medical experts concluded that he had been exposed to toxic fumes causing moderate brain damage that led to loss of concentration and memory and loss of organisational ability, which reduced his capacity to work. Earlier this month the council offered to settle his claim for £175,000 and the trial was adjourned until yesterday to allow time for its approval by the relevant council committees.

Mr McCrae's solicitor, Gisele Bakkenist from Leigh Day, said: "I am delighted that he has at least obtained justice. There is little doubt in my mind and that of our experts that Mr McCrae would have been awarded substantial damages by the trial judge."

She said that all landlords, whether private or public authorities, now had to ensure the safety of gas installations by conducting annual safety checks and maintenance. "I hope this case will be a warning that, if the safety of tenants from this poisonous gas is not ensured, landlords will be held accountable."

Mr McCrae had a successful career in fashion design and had worked for well-known boutiques and designers, including the House of Norman Hartnell, and had set up his own studio. As his health deteriorated he turned to teaching design but that also became too difficult for him.

Stephanie Trotter, president of CO Gas Safety, a registered charity, said: "Carbon monoxide is a hidden poison. We counted from press cuttings 65 deaths and 403 near misses from September 1995 to August 1996. We are delighted with this result and hope others will take courage to fight their cases because this will encourage the authorities to improve standards."

☐ *The Royal College of Nursing has won a record £380,000 in damages for a 35-year-old nurse who will never be able to work again after injuring her back.*

The nurse, who does not want her identity disclosed, fractured her spine in 1990 in a work accident caused by a failure to maintain safe premises. She is in constant pain, unable to work for more than 10 minutes at a time or drive for half an hour. Her National Health Service employer has agree to pay £380,000 in an out-of-court settlement, the highest sum the college has won for a back-injured nurse.

Patrick Blundy, legal adviser to the college, said: "No amount of money can compensate this nurse for the fact that she is now unable to practise her chosen profession. There is a clear message here for employers: take care of your staff and ensure that your premises are safe to work in or you will pay the price."

'I called them in for the match,' says mother. 'They moved and the ground disappeared'

Soccer saves children as garden falls into crater

By Paul Wilkinson

TWO children escaped death by minutes when a 100ft-deep hole opened up in the garden of their home.

Ten-year-old Charlotte Britton and her brother Charles, eight, had just cleared away their buckets and spades from a sandpit when the ground slipped into a water-filled hole.

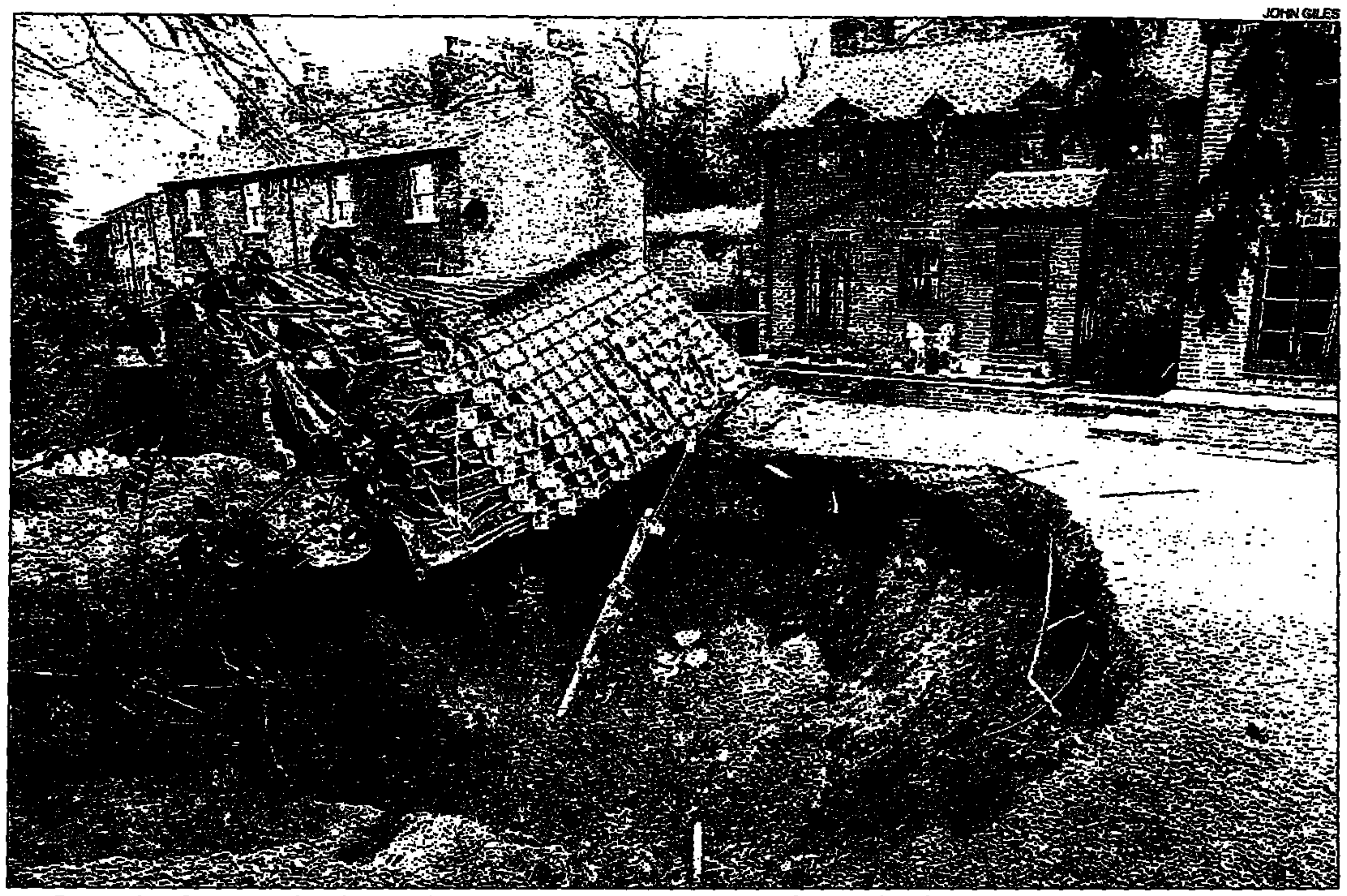
As their mother Jane, 31, called them into the semi-detached house in Ripon, North Yorkshire, to watch Manchester United play Borussia Dortmund in the European Cup on Wednesday night, the garden fell away from under them. "I went out to call them in and the ground started to move under me," she said. "I just shouted to the children. They moved and the ground just disappeared.

"There was a roar and a hole 70ft across and 100ft deep appeared just yards in front of us. If I had not been there to get my children they would have been dead now. Thankfully Charlie is a Manchester United fan and he had told me to call him when the match started."

Jane Britton: given two minutes to flee house

A few hours later the family's double garage fell into the hole. "I called the emergency services and we were given just two minutes to find some clothes and get out of the house," Mrs Britton said. Other families in the street were also told to move out.

"I have been told it is unsafe and I can't go back in," she said. "The experts that have been here say the whole house is likely to collapse."


JOHN GILES

The remains of the garage hanging over the hole that suddenly opened up in the front garden of Jane Britton's home in North Yorkshire

John Kirkman, Harrogate District Council's chief building control officer, said: "People have been instructed to move out of their homes in the interests of their own safety. We are monitoring the situation and until insurance engineers and independent engineers can assess the level of danger they cannot move back in."

The collapse is thought to have been caused by a geological fault in the area, possibly caused by mining for gypsum. Mrs Britton said that holes had appeared in the garden before and that she was in dispute with insurers over responsibility for the damage. The matter was due to go before the High Court in four weeks.

Now Mrs Britton and her partner, Eddie Newcombe, a butcher, fear they will not be able to move back in. "I don't even know if the house will still be here when the case starts. I have always been afraid that something like this might happen. When I am in the house, every little sound sets me on edge and I start fearing the worst."

North Yorkshire Police said: "It's a miracle the children were not killed when the hole opened up. Nearby houses were evacuated because there were fears that at least two properties were in danger of disappearing."

The subsidence problem began two years after Mrs Britton bought the three-bedroom house on the outskirts of Ripon. Within weeks, part of the land in front of the house had collapsed, leaving a hole 20ft deep and 10ft wide.

Since that first collapse, the ground has opened five more times and the hole has been filled with hardcore. Insurers have refused to pay for damage to the house, claiming it to be a natural disaster.

Murderer of twins gets life sentences

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

A VIOLENT alcoholic was given two life sentences yesterday for beating identical twins to death during a drinking session and dumping their bodies in a canal.

David Dillon's victims, Christopher and Anthony Langford, 38, had slipped from a comfortable middle-class life in Bromham, Bedfordshire, to became violent beggars in north London. Dillon bludgeoned them to death in an apparently motiveless attack and wheeled their bodies hidden in a blanket and carpet through the streets in a shopping trolley to Regent's Canal.

Yesterday at the Old Bailey Judge Grigson told Dillon, 38, he was a danger to the public. He had acted with "cool intelligence " after the murders to conceal any traces and still remained silent about the motives for the killings.

Dillon, an unemployed decorator and originally from Co Cork, had denied murdering the brothers between February and April last year.

Anthony was training as a solicitor and Christopher worked as a landscape gardener before they dropped out in 1991 and began begging on the streets, where they met Dillon.Their father, Jeff, a retired schoolteacher, and stepmother, Elizabeth, cannot explain what happened. One clue may lie with their real mother Patricia, whose marriage broke up, and who also was a chronic alcoholic.

Dartmoor woman is found murdered

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN was found murdered at her thatched cottage on Dartmoor yesterday.

Police did not immediately confirm her identity, but she is believed to be Susan Faux, 47, who lived at Hexworthy with her husband, William, a builder, and grown-up daughter, Carrie. The woman, who had head injuries, was found by her daughter at the cottage, called Thimble Hall.

Police, who set up an incident room at Newton Abbot, made house-to-house inquiries in the village, which is four miles from Dartmoor prison. A police helicopter was called to the scene. The murder inquiry is being led by the deputy head of Devon and Cornwall CID, Detective Superintendent John Smith.

Neighbours said they had heard and seen nothing suspicious and did not realise there was anything wrong until police flooded into the village.

One friend of the family, who asked not to be named, said: "We do not know what is going on. All we have seen is a lot of blue flashing lights.

"It is a lovely house on the edge of the village but its name gives a slightly grand impression. It is not like a baronial hall or a stately home but it is a very nice large thatched cottage. It would be a real shock for everyone who knows her if anything has happened to Susan."

Neighbours grab driver who killed girl on pavement

By Richard Duce

WITNESSES to the death of a nine-year-old girl "arrested" the driver of a stolen car after it hit the child as she played on the pavement.

They said the 16-year-old youth staggered from the car clutching a can of cider after the Vauxhall Nova knocked down and killed Teleri West and seriously injured Sean Rogers, 14, her friend and neighbour, outside their homes in the Cardiff suburb of Morganstown.

The girl's mother, Helen West, 32, is four months pregnant. Christopher Lundregan, 26, Teleri's stepfather, said yesterday: "She used to play on the pavement in front of the house all the time. Her mother and I heard a loud bang at about nine o'clock last night and ran out. We saw Teleri lying face down in the road.

"The joyrider was standing there with a can of cider in his hand and another one hanging out of his pocket. Some of our neighbours were holding onto him in case he tried to get away. The ambulance arrived, but it was too late."

Nicola Davies, a neighbour, said: "She was a beautiful little girl and always seemed very happy. The whole neighbourhood is devastated."

Arwel Williams, the headmaster of Terleri's Welsh language school, said: "We are in a state of shock like everyone else. We have told Teleri's class as tenderly as possible and a few of her close friends are very upset. She was a lovely, happy girl who had a lot of good friends in the school."

Sean Rogers was said last night said to be a satisfactory condition at Cardiff Royal Infirmiary with leg and hip injuries.

Superintendent Mike Pett, head of South Wales Police traffic division, said: "This is a dreadful tragedy and we would like to express our sympathy to the parents." The car had been stolen from Cardiff city centre earlier in the day. The driver had later failed a breath test.

Last night, a 16-year-old was being held for questioning about Teleri's death.

Teleri West: was playing when the car hit her

Inquest told blaze hero 'got a buzz' out of fires

By Russell Jenkins

A MAN who was hailed a hero for saving his four children from a blaze in which his wife died was described at an inquest yesterday as a compulsive liar obsessed by fire.

Patrick Holt, 40, had wept as he denied that he deliberately started the fire that killed his wife Susan, 37. He was accused by a lawyer acting for Derbyshire police of being an attention-seeker who got a "buzz" out of starting fires. His brother and sister said Mr Holt was a compulsive liar who wanted to "play the hero" by saving his family

John Pollard, the Coroner, sitting in Stockport, recorded an open verdict. He said: "It beggars belief that this was anything other than a deliberate fire."

At one stage yesterday, he told Mr Holt to spend a 45-minute adjournment thinking carefully about the truth. "You have a lot of problems," he said. "You would not want to add perjury to those problems."

The fire last October was the third in eight months at the Holts' home in Glossop, Derbyshire. Mrs Holt's sisters said that three months before her death she had asked the council to rehouse her because she feared that her husband was going to set the housealight. Jacqueline King, Mr Holt's first wife, described how she escaped a fire in their home 20 years ago.

Enigmatic variation sounds out Elgar

By Tim Jones

MUSIC-LOVERS attending this year's Malvern Elgar Festival will be able to enjoy the chamber music of Schubert, Beethoven and Brahms — but not the larger-scale works of the composer after whom it is named.

Malvern's Winter Gardens theatre and hall complex is being renovated, so the festival is to be held in the much smaller Priory church. The artistic director, William Boughton, said: "We are not doing any Elgar because artistically the music doesn't sit well in the Priory and we are forced to use 36 or 48-piece orchestras. Elgar really needs 100 to 80 pieces to do him justice.

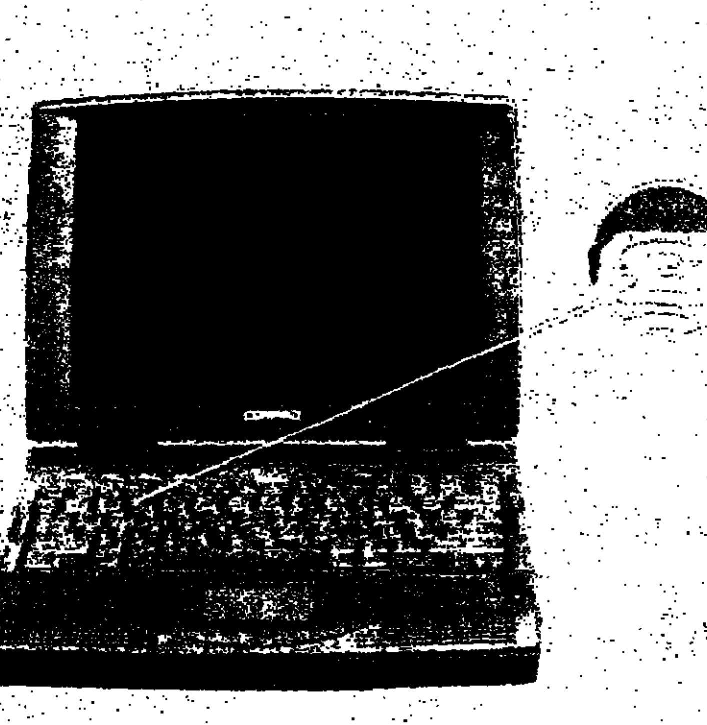
"Acoustically, it would be a dog's dinner. He is far too great a composer and we are not willing to reduce him to tokenism." Instead they would be using the festival to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Schubert and the 100th anniversary of the death of Brahms.

Although Elgar's works will not feature in the festival, which begins in May, his name will appear on promotional material. Mr Boughton explained: "We want to create an identity for the festival and it would be meaningless dropping the name for one year. Admittedly, it does seem strange, but events have been rather out of our control. I am sure people will enjoy the festival."

John Harcup, of the Elgar Society, said: "I don't see how one can have an Elgar festival without Elgar. It is incredible.

"I can understand why Elgar's most famous works would be unsuitable for the Priory but lesser-known pieces should be performed. He made his name here and we should be honouring him. They have missed an ideal opportunity to stage lesser-known works which would have proved very interesting."

Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934) lived for many years in Malvern and died there.



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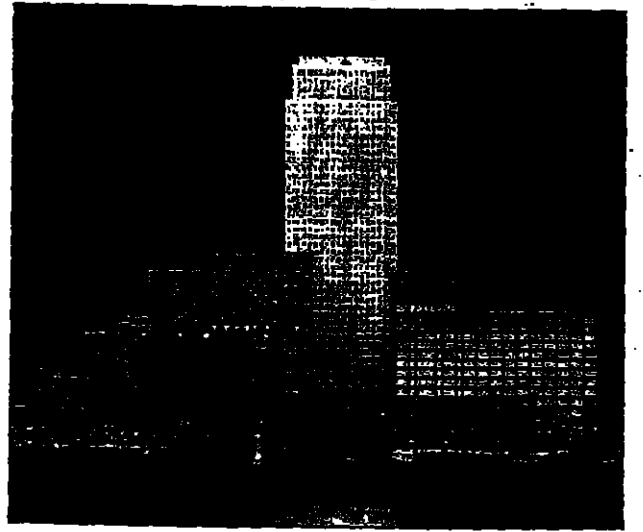
Canary Wharf neighbours lose interference case

Viewers have no right to watch TV, say law lords

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent



Canary Wharf Tower: eastenders could not watch *EastEnders* when the building blocked TV signals

WATCHING television is not a fundamental right, the House of Lords has ruled. Residents living near Britain's tallest office block have been barred from seeking damages for having their picture reception ruined.

The 750 residents, led by a Roman Catholic nun and community worker, had complained about more than two years of interference caused by the 790ft Canary Wharf Tower in London's Docklands. Yesterday Sister Christine Frost was critical of the ruling that missing television did not count as a nuisance in legal terms.

"Television is now almost as important a part of daily life as electricity, gas and water supplies, and people have a fundamental right to receive it," she said.

"We brought this case not just for us, but so that other people wouldn't be trampled on and treated as if they had no rights by big conglomerates. This is sad result for the little people, for those who don't have money or a big voice."

One of the complainants was Rose Humphries, 72, a widow who is recovering from breast cancer. She said: "I spend a lot of time at home on my own watching television. For two years when we had the interference, I would have a picture and then suddenly it would disappear.

"I like the soaps, especially *EastEnders*, even though it is not really like life in the East End. When the picture went, I had to keep telephoning my daughter to find out what happened next."

In a unanimous judgment by five law lords, Lord Goff of Chieveley conceded that television "must provide a great distraction and relief from the circumscribed nature of the lives" of aged, lonely and bedridden people. However, that the deprivation of television pictures did not constitute a nuisance.

"The mere fact that a building on the defendant's land gets in the way and so prevents something from reaching the plaintiff's land is generally speaking not enough for this purpose," he said.

Lord Hope of Craighead said that, because television and radio signals were invisible, it would be impossible for developers to know of their existence before putting up a building.

The Canary Wharf Tower reflects about 80 per cent of television signals — as opposed to 5 per cent by most buildings — because of its flat stainless steel cladding and metalised windows. The television reception for many local residents was disrupted from 1989 until the installation of a new transmitter in 1992.

The residents' case was funded by Legal Aid, and costs ran into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Sally Moore, a solicitor with Leigh Day representing the residents, said she thought that her clients would feel that the justice system had let them down: "The ruling is basically equating the right to receive a television signal with the right to have a view or light through your window. It gives no more protected than that.

"What it is saying is that, if your television signals are fine, and then somebody comes and puts a great big building in front of the signals, then don't look to the law to protect you."

A spokeswoman for Canary Wharf Limited welcomed the ruling. She said: "As a developer, we well recognise the responsibilities to the local community, and when we became aware of the problem with television reception we were instrumental in arranging with the London Docklands Development Corporation and the BBC for a repeater transmitter to be installed."

Addicts are urged to kick the habit

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

TELEVISION viewers were urged yesterday to store their sets in the coldest and most uncomfortable room in their homes at the start of Turn Off TV Week.

The campaign by the pressure group, White Dot aims to help television addicts to quit their habit for a week and encourage them to devote leisure time to more creative activities. David Burke, its founder, said the hours spent by most people in front of the box was eroding the quality of family life and undermining society. "A lot of people say, 'I watch a little bit of television, but only the good things.' Well, it's been shown that Britons watch an average of 3½ hours a day, so either somebody's watching an awful lot, or people are lying."

A week without television would break the habit of a lifetime and help people to rebuild their lives, he added. Only one in 100 British homes manages without a television set. He advised viewers to make a list of all the hobbies that would interest them and to take them up. "Then you can become the person you tell everyone you are."

A similar campaign in the United States met with limited success: only about three million people and 25,000 schools participated in a week-long "strike" by viewers.

The television industry dismissed the campaign yesterday as a gimmick, pointing out that Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, had argued powerfully in favour of television as a force for good. In 1995 she told the Royal Television Society's biennial conference in Cambridge that television provided a vital "window on the world" to viewers by informing them of important social issues.

John Woodward, the chief executive of the Producers' Alliance for Cinema and Television, which represents programme-makers, said the campaign was "absolute nonsense. Television is the most important force for education and communication in Western civilisation. There may be one of two countries where it could do some good not to watch television for a week, but the UK is not one of them because the quality of our programming is so high."

Radio and television, pages 50, 51

Alwyn Philips: "I didn't say I was married. It didn't come up in conversation"

New love from dating agency ended with a brief encounter

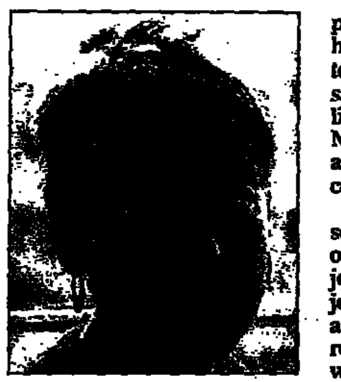
By Adrian Lee

A WOMAN decided on a swift revenge when she discovered that the new love she met through a dating agency was already married. Margaret Ruddlesden reached for her sewing kit and a pair of his underpants.

Ms Ruddlesden, 47, an occupational therapist, then confronted Alwyn Philips's wife, handing her the underpants on which she had sewn the words: "Lying bastard". Her next visit was to her solicitors, to seek advice on suing the agency, Close Encounters (of the Best Kind).

Ms Ruddlesden, of Shirehampton, Bristol, maintains that it assured her Mr Philips was divorced. The agency says it told her the Philipses were merely estranged.

She said: "I joined the agency to find love and I ended up having my heart broken. I was interviewed in great depth by the agency and I presumed the same thing happened with other members."



Margaret Ruddlesden: she wants to sue agency

The two dated for three weeks. Mr Philips, also 47, sent her red roses. By her own admission, she was smitten. His double life emerged when she discovered his address from driving documents.

Yesterday Mr Philips, who has two children, was unrepentant. Speaking from his home in Winterbourne, Bristol, the frozen-food worker said: "I don't feel as if I have lied to anyone. I didn't tell Margaret I was still married as it didn't come up in the conversation.

"My wife and I are leading separate lives. We had agreed on a divorce long before I joined the dating agency. I joined to meet someone new and rebuild my life, but the relationship with Margaret was not working so I told her to cool it. She couldn't accept it and started causing trouble. My estranged wife was indifferent when Margaret handed her the pants."

Tim Holmes, who founded Close Encounters, said the agency would consider refunding Ms Ruddlesden's £417 joining fee as a goodwill gesture. He added: "We try to take every possible precaution. Mr Philips told us he was separated from his wife and we took his word for it."

Writing songs is therapy to me, says Sir Paul

By A Staff Reporter

MUSIC gave Sir Paul McCartney the strength to cope with the trauma of his wife's illness, he said. It was a form of therapy that stopped him "going round the bend" while Lady McCartney underwent treatment in her fight against breast cancer.

In an interview in *The Times* today, he says: "Music has always been a consolation for me. When you get the teenage blues, the great remedy is to write a song. I wrote *Ebony and Ivory* after a little marital tiff with Linda. It was like 'Why can't we get it together — our piano can.'

"If you asked a lot of songwriters, you'd find that what happens is that they have a bad day so they skulk off to hide from everyone. Instead of lying on a psychiatrist's couch they talk to themselves in a song. I do that all the time.

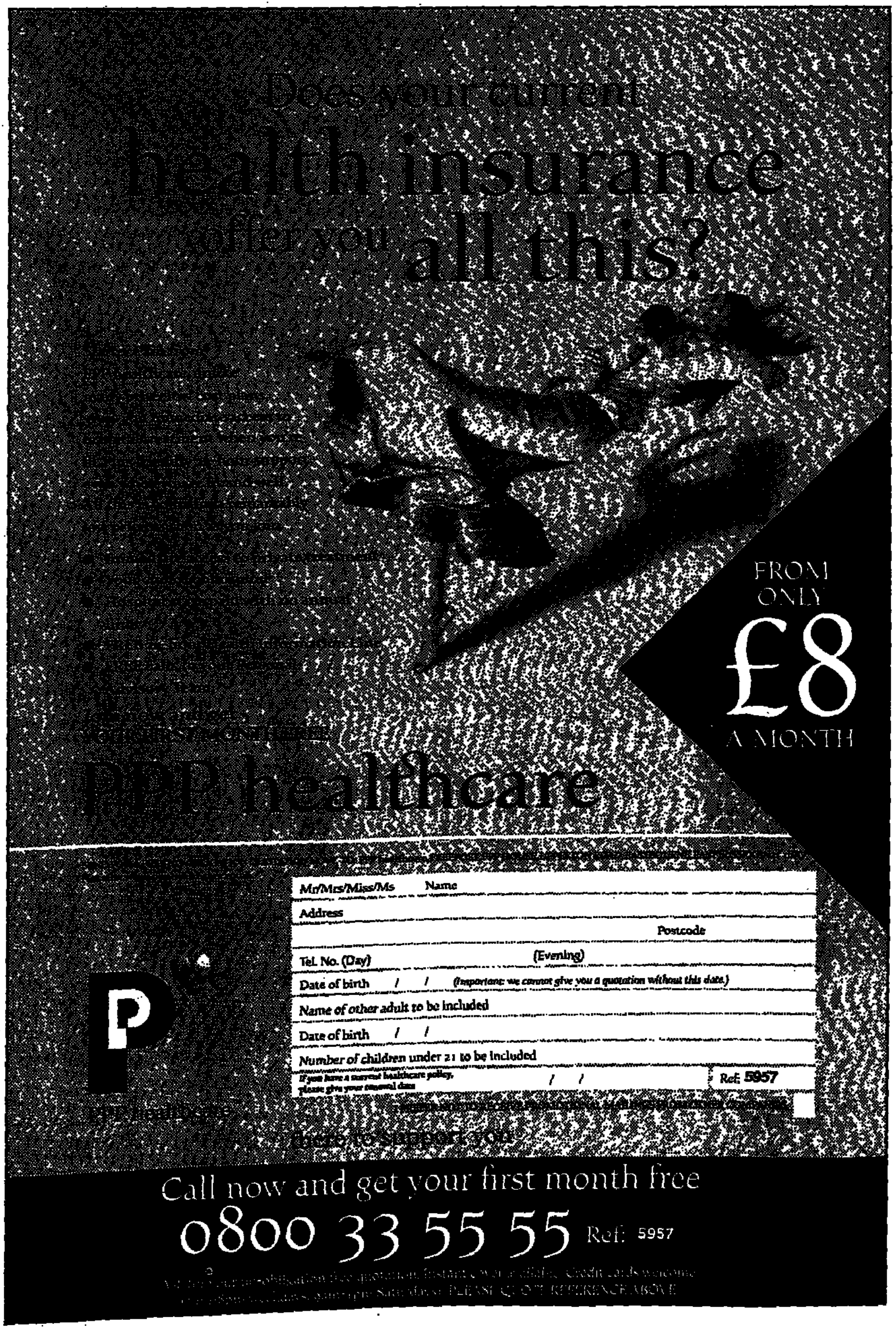
"Linda's not been well the past year or so, although she's doing very well now. It's very difficult when you get that kind of situation in your life. I'm sensitive enough not to repress it all the time, and that helps you to deal with it."

His latest album, *Flaming Pie*, to be released on May 12, is streaked with melancholy. It features *Little Willow*, which was written after Maureen Starkey, Ringo Starr's first wife, died of cancer. "The morning I heard the news I couldn't think of anything else, so I wrote this in the hope that I could somehow convey how much I thought of her. It's certainly heartfelt."

He says half of his songs are personal and the other half are flippant throwaways, such as *Yellow Submarine*. "Some of them are very much me doing therapy with myself and half of them I'm just writing about Desmond and Molly.

"I'm sure a psychiatrist would look at it and find that Desmond and Molly are just both halves of my alter-ego or something. The truth about it is that I don't think about it. I've always seen the whole songwriting process as being magical."

Interview, page 37



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A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PAUL SYKES

Dear Reader

There has been much media discussion over the number of Conservative candidates who have confirmed to their local electorate, in their personal manifestos, that they would not vote in favour of a European single currency.

Before the election was called and before candidates went out canvassing for support, no-one knew the overwhelming opposition on the doorstep to a single currency. Many of the candidates had already ruled out a single currency, but of course many more are now responding to what the electorate wants to hear - Conservatives do not want to abolish the pound. Conservatives do not want a single economy for the whole of Europe run from a European Central Bank. Conservatives do not want their interest rates and mortgage rates decided in Frankfurt. Conservatives do not want to give up our gold and dollar reserves, they know that a single currency is the major irreversible step to building a Federal Europe.

There is no half way house. A single currency means ultimately a single country. To achieve a single currency without ultimately having a single country would be a world first - there is no such thing. The people of Britain in ever increasing numbers are becoming aware of this, that is why they want us to say no to a single currency now. They do not want to wait two or three years for a woolly worded referendum from either of the main political parties.

What the people of Britain want to see is more trade with our European partners; they know that it is trade that creates peace and prosperity among nations, not politics.

I liken Chancellor Kohl to a train driver. All the time the ultimate destination of the train is a Federal Europe, but the driver slows down for the odd bend and while the passengers talk about business, trade and jobs, the train speeds up again and continues onwards towards its destination. As Chancellor Kohl himself put it, "in two years time, the process of integration will be irreversible". This is despite the fact that many surveys in Germany have shown that over 90% of its people do not want to scrap the Deutschmark and show how his political ambitions take precedence over the wishes of even his own nation.

Voters at this election are receiving promises from all the major parties on tax matters, legal reforms and other changes which affect their daily lives. If we do not rule out a single currency now and the federal agenda is achieved, all these discussions and promises will be irrelevant. These decisions would all be taken by the Federal Government of Europe.

There is now an overwhelming majority of candidates in Conservative held seats who have committed themselves to opposing a single currency. The electorate now know that if a Conservative Government is re-elected, then because of the free vote given by John Major, single currency proposals would not be endorsed by the House of Commons.

Voters now have a clear choice. Vote Conservative for Britain to remain a free and independent trading nation. Vote Labour for the adoption of single currency proposals, the Social Chapter, and further surrender of political and economic control over our country's affairs.

Now that the real facts about our relationship with Europe are starting to emerge, the voice of Britain is at long last beginning to be heard. I love my country and its enduring democracy and will fight all the way to retain its sovereignty intact.

Yours faithfully

PAUL SYKES

Big salaries are price of success for top charities

By Ian Murray

CHARITIES are paying huge salaries to executives recruited to run them as successful businesses, according to a survey of the top 3,000 voluntary organisations in Britain.

Geoff Armstrong, the highest paid among them, received £192,000 last year, excluding pensions contributions, as director-general of the Institute of Personnel and Development. Thirteen other charities paid their top executive more than £100,000 a year, and the average salary of directors of the top 100 charities was £75,000.

Generally, the bigger the charity, the more its directors are paid. However, Mr Armstrong's organisation, which describes itself as "the leading professional body specialising in advancing the management and development of people", is 195th by income and 229th in expenditure. It has a staff of 133 and its funds of £10 million are the 485th largest of any registered charity.

The 17 charities with directors earning at least £75,000 include Barnardo's, the British Red Cross, Cancer Research, the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The 14 charities with directors on £65,000 include Help the Aged and Save the Children. Eleven paying £55,000 include Marie Curie Cancer Care and The Children's Society.

However, others that paid £75,000 include the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, ranked 356th for income, The Leadership Trust, 937th for income, and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

"Trustees have to ask themselves whether there are genuine reasons for this," Andrew Hind, honorary treasurer of Unicef's UK committee, writes in the annual *Top 3,000 Charities* guide published today by Baring Asset Management. "Perhaps it is because of the exceptionally high profile of a relatively small organisation or whether the salary it is paying is seriously out of line and needs correction over time."

Overall the Royal Opera House has the best-paid staff of any charity, with an average salary of £43,369. Its total wage bill rose by 4 per cent last year even though the pay roll was cut by 77 to 1,000. Sir Jeremy Isaacs, its director until the end of last year, was on a salary of £120,790. At the other end of the scale the British Pregnancy Advisory Service employs 627 people at an average wage of £6,585.

The voluntary sector has an annual turnover of £13 billion, employs 466,700 people with a wage bill of £6 billion, and contributes £3.6 billion to the economy. With Government increasingly relying on this sector to provide services, several major charities are having to dig into their reserve funds to pay for their work.

The guide shows that animal charities receive more legacies than those helping people. Of the top 100 charities, 17 per cent are connected with animal welfare. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund received the most from bequests: £36 million.

TOP 10 EARNERS

1 Institute of Personnel and Development: Geoff Armstrong, dir-gen £192,000
2 Industrial Society: Tony Morgan, chief exec £133,000
3 Wellcome Trust: Dr Bridget Ogilvie, director £125,000
4 Royal Opera House Covent Garden: Sir Jeremy Isaacs, gen director (retired) £120,790
5 CIPFA: David Adams, director £115,000
6 Leeds Castle Foundation: Graham Jackson, MD £115,000
7 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: Harrison Spencer, chief exec £115,000
8 Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra: Paul Hughes, gen mangr £112,594
9 Institute of Management Foundation: Roger Young, dir-gen £105,000
10: King Edward's Hospital Fund for London: Dr Robert Maxwell, chief exec £105,000
10: Royal Shakespeare Theatre Stratford: William Weston, gen mgr £105,000

RICHARD LAPPAS

Another casualty of the dry weather is treated at the Prickly Ball Farm. Most come in hungry and dehydrated

Wildlife is waking up to starvation

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

A COMBINATION of freezing nights and bone-dry ground is making it impossible for bats and hedgehogs emerging from hibernation to find enough food.

Large numbers of hedgehogs are starving and dying across parts of south and southwest England. Worms, one of their staple foods, are staying underground, beetles remaining hidden and small frogs and pond creatures sticking to the water. Drinking places for hedgehogs are drying up.

Elizabeth Dyas, who runs the Prickly Ball Farm near Newton Abbot, Devon, which cares for distressed hedgehogs, said yesterday: "They are coming in almost daily, brought in by concerned members of the public and the RSPCA. Hedgehogs can cope with hot weather. The problem is the lack of food."

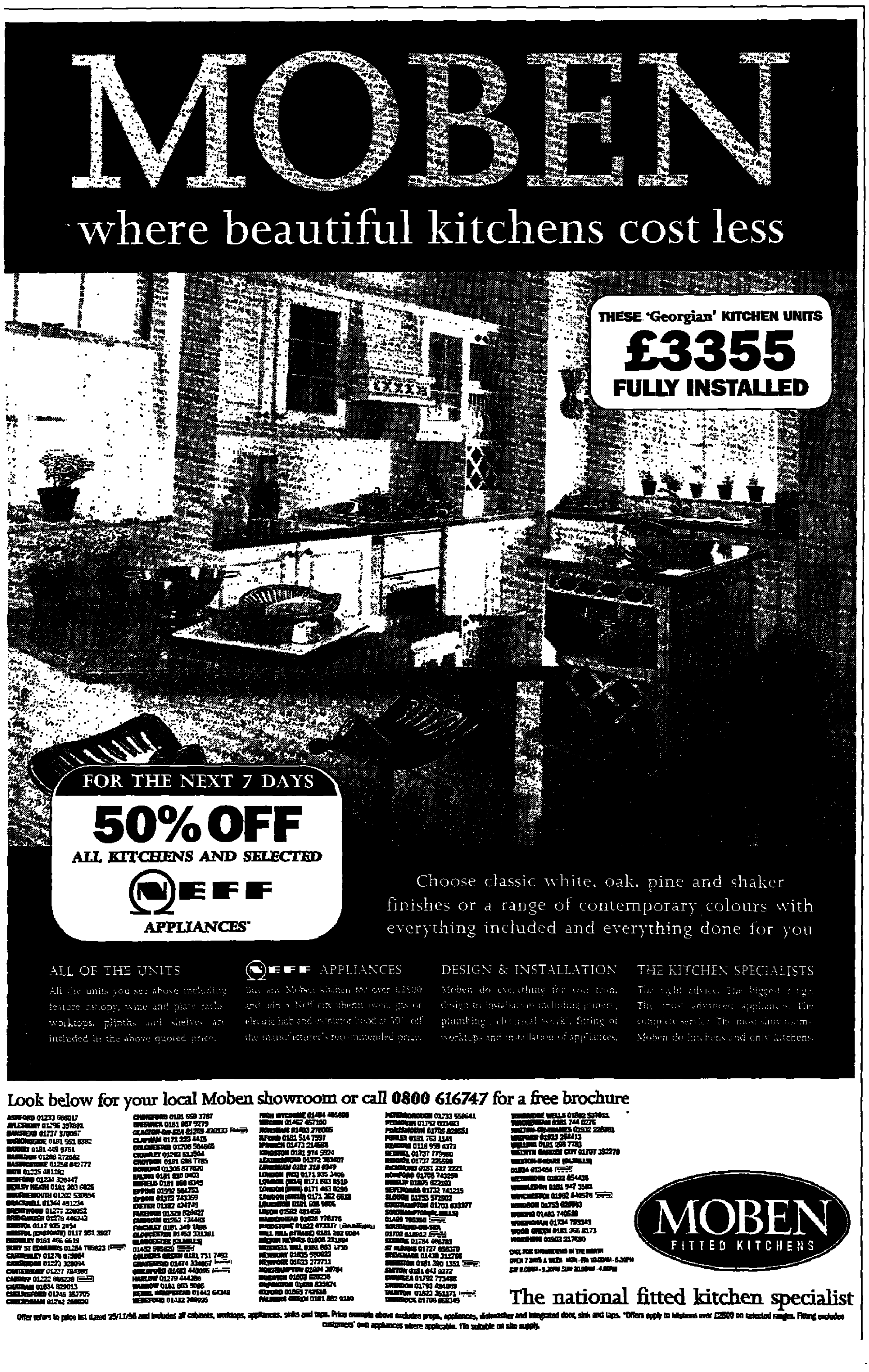
She said animals were being discovered lying on their sides, dehydrated. "We need to get nutrition inside them quickly. We have seen a big increase in the numbers of hedgehogs in a bad state. They are extremely thin and their skin becomes loose."

Bat experts said yesterday that they had never seen so many starving, malnourished creatures at this time of year. Patty Briggs, who runs a hospital for sick and injured bats in Bushey, Hertfordshire, said the warm weather during the day was bringing bats out of hibernation. But the cold nights, during which temperatures have regularly fallen below 8C, meant that there were few insects on which the animals could feed and boost their depleted energy stores.

Ms Briggs, a member of the Bat Conservation Trust whose santuary is part of a small national network of bat hospitals, said that over the past two weeks she had rescued 18 bats from across Hertfordshire and northwest London that were "just bags of bones".

In an attempt to save bats and to assist anyone who finds one in a distressed state, the trust and the People's Trust for Endangered Species have introduced a national bat helpline on 0171-627 8822.

David Bellamy, the conservation trust's president, said: "If a bat roost was threatened or you encountered a bat in distress in your garden or elsewhere, would you know where to call for the expert help the bats obviously need? Now all you need do is ring bat man for help and advice."



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Brain drain lures bee scientists who set world buzzing

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

THE brain drain is beckoning a British research team who discovered how to glue tiny antennae to the backs of bumblebees. Funding problems mean that their work on an insect tracking system could be lured abroad.

Their mini-radar is the only one of its kind in the world that can track low-flying insects over large distances to reveal where they feed and how far they fly. The work was originally launched to find a way of tracking the disease-carrying tsetse fly, but it has also provided new insights to help to halt a decline in bumblebees, which are vital for pollinating some early crops and flowers.

Cuts in government funding and the recent privatisation of the Radar Insect Group, based at the Natural Resources Institute in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, means that the three researchers may go to universities and institutes elsewhere. One of them, Joe Riley, said: "There is a Swedish, a German and an American group who are all interested in the system. If this technology is taken up abroad, this will be a big disappointment, but we are now constrained to go wherever customers will pay."

World interest in the work follows five years of research, funded mainly by the Overseas Development Agency, into the tiny antenna, which weighs three milligrams and is 16 millimetres high. Field trials on the system — called the harmonic generating tag — showed that the creatures can fly normally with the extra load.

The key to the device's tiny size is its ability to pick up operating power from incoming signals, so that no on-board battery is required. Radar had been used to monitor high-flying insects, but their ground-hugging counterparts could not be tracked because of the signals returned from plants and other objects.

British bees may get science off their backs

The government-funded Institute of Arable Crops Research at Rothamstead, Hertfordshire, has been unable to persuade the Biotechnological and Biological Sciences Research Council to pay to hire the radar group for further studies, although some late funding has come from the British Beekeepers Association. The three-man team and equipment cost £20,000 a month.

Dr Juliet Osbourne, a scientist at the institute, said that the system had revolutionised their research and shown that bumblebees flew at least 800 metres from their nests for food, considerably further than previously thought. It means that farmers may need to plant suitable food sources at far greater distances. She added: "There are lots of other findings to be made. I suspect they may fly much further."

Village split by case of killer swan

THE villagers of Polperro in Cornwall are divided by calls to move a swan from the harbour after it killed 12 ducklings (writes Joanna Bale).

A pub landlord has had a dead duckling put through his letterbox. Threatening letters have been sent and the police have been called to stop tempers erupting.

One resident, Monica Field Johnson, said that most people wanted the swans moved. "It is most unpleasant. He grabs the ducklings as they come bobbing down the river, throws them up in the air and drowns them."

The pro-swan faction is lying low. One said: "The swans have been here for years and it is only natural for them to kill a few ducklings. It has all got out of hand."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Depressed builder wins right to payout

A construction worker whose life has been wrecked by the trauma of witnessing a colleague's death in 1988 yesterday won a victory in his fight for six-figure compensation. Ian Young, 46, from Sidcup, Kent, was 6ft away when a scaffolding pole he had handed to Andrew Cook brushed an overhead electricity cable, killing Mr Cook instantly.

His case was dismissed last year by a High Court judge, who said Mr Young had not been close enough to the accident to qualify for damages from the site's developers. But the appeal court overturned that decision. Lord Justice Hutchison said Mr Young was a primary victim. "There is nothing disreputable about a claim for damages based on psychiatric injury."

City church aid

The Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, announced the creation of the City Churches Development Group to help the 37 churches in the City of London. He said the answer for struggling churches was certainly not "closure and retreat".

Berserk shopper

Police used CS gas to subdue a man covered in white paint and dressed only in boxer shorts who went berserk in Sainsbury's in Portsmouth, causing damage amounting to thousands of pounds. John Chalk, owner of a nearby pet store, was taken to hospital.

Cricketer dies

A 20-year-old batsman has died after collapsing during net practice. Richard Parsons, a student at Exeter University, had taken a couple of catches when he became ill on the field at Pyrford, Surrey. Paramedics could not unblock his airway.

Whale was sick

The sperm whale that died in the Firth of Forth last month had bone disease and no food in its stomach. However, Andrew Kitchener, from the zoology department at the National Museums of Scotland, said: "We have no idea why it died."

Paramedic fired

A trainee paramedic who photographed the body of a dead woman at the scene of a crime has been sacked. Avon Ambulance NHS Trust dismissed the unnamed ambulanceman for gross misconduct in breaching patient confidentiality.

Historic loss

Documents about the Adams family, who left Somerset for America in the 17th century and whose descendants included five US Presidents, were stolen from Barton St David church, near Somerton. Marriage registers and church plate were also stolen.

Sausage kills boy

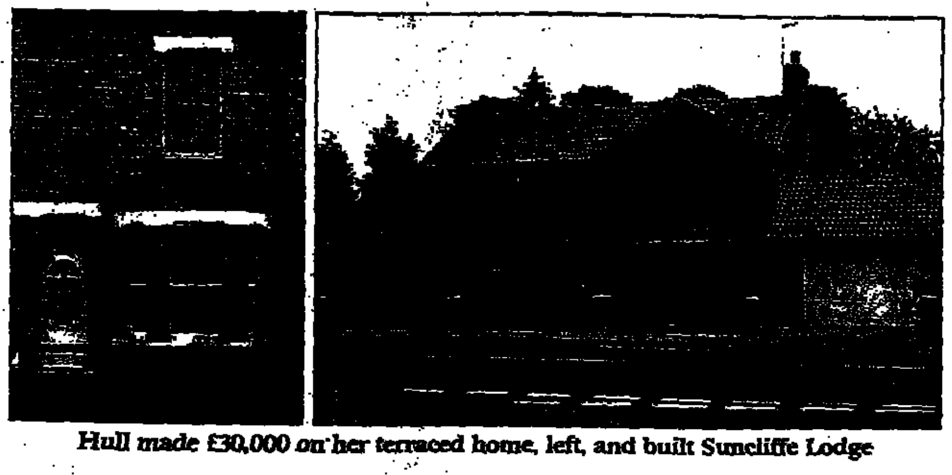
A four-year-old boy died the day after he choked on a piece of sausage during lunch at St Joseph's Roman Catholic school. Efforts to revive Andrew Dovey, of Llandudno, North Wales, were hampered by his large tonsils, an inquest in the town was told.

Tractor death

A man died in the gypsum mine at Brightling, East Sussex, when a tractor he was driving toppled and crushed him. The miner, aged 55, was working deep underground. Sussex police said: "The tractor somehow overturned and pinned him underneath."

Mother claimed rent benefit to develop £200,000 house

By Paul Wilkinson



Hull made £30,000 on her terraced home, left, and built Suncliffe Lodge

A WOMAN planned and built a £200,000 house while living in a housing association flat and claiming rent benefit.

Jacqueline Hull used the state handouts over a five-year period to help to develop Suncliffe Lodge, a five-bedroom detached home. She convinced council officials, and staff at subsidised accommodation run by the Joseph Rowntree Trust, that she was a penniless mother of three, abandoned by her husband and struggling to survive in rented housing.

In fact she was a property owner with her own business, running a slimming club. The only time she was homeless was when she sold her terraced house at a profit to reinvest in her building project. It was then that the trust provided her with a home.

The story of how Hill, 40, cheated her way from a £20,000 house in a back street in York to an imposing residence less than a mile away in Huntington unfolded during her trial at York Crown Court, where she was convicted of four specimen charges of deception.

Sentence was postponed for eight weeks after North Yorkshire Police said they were considering a request for confiscation of Hull's assets. They want to investigate her financial background and discover exactly what she owns.

Julian Goose, for the prosecution, said that, in 1985, Hull and her husband bought a terraced house in Acomb, York. Three years later he left her and transferred sole ownership to her.

Soon afterwards she applied to the city council for housing benefit, stating that she was a tenant in the house. She filled in application forms giving false details.

She initially claimed £45 a week. When she increased the claim to £50, she said the rent had gone up, but in fact her mortgage interest had risen and she wanted the increase to cover it.

The allowances were paid until 1993 when Hull sold the house for £55,000, pocketing more than £30,000 profit. Shortly afterwards she applied for a council house, signing documents saying that she had no assets.

The council treated her case sympathetically and with urgency. Through the Joseph Rowntree Housing Association she was allocated a homeless person's flat. The association paid the rent but, unknown to it, Hull had put the profit from the sale of her home towards developing the building plot in Huntington. The rest of the cash came from a £70,000 mortgage based on her slimming business.

But an internal audit at York council exposed her double dealing and, by the time the new house was completed in early 1994, she had been arrested on suspicion of fraud.

Hull told the court she could not afford to move into the new property, saying: "I could not have afforded to even turn the heating on, let alone run it." She put the house up for sale with an asking price of £200,000, but eventually agreed a swap for a house valued at about £70,000 at Crambeck, between York and Malton, and cash to make up the balance.

Throughout her trial Hull maintained that she had not been dishonest, but merely followed the instructions of her mother when filling in forms and making applications. She claimed that the plot of land at Huntington was owned by her mother and that, after she had repaid all her loans, she was again penniless.

Jacqueline Hull convinced officials she was homeless

Complaints about rail reliability rise by 56%

By A Staff Reporter

COMPLAINTS by rail passengers in southern England in the year to March were 56 per cent up on the previous year and the highest of the decade. A total of 1,024 complaints were received by the South of England Rail Users' Consultative Committee.

The committee's latest figures include February and March when South West Trains cancelled 39 trains a day because of driver shortages. The committee said complaints about reliability had shown a significant increase in the final quarter of the year.

It also blamed SWT and another privatised company, Connex South Eastern, for an increase in complaints about information at stations.

The anti-privatisation group, Save Our Railways, which released the figures, said yesterday that the level of complaints showed privatisation was not working. Keith Bill, the national secretary, said: "Commuters are sick of seeing companies making fat-cat profits while quality services deteriorate."

Big game hunts are rigged, says TV sleuth

By Michael Hornsby

LIONS, tigers, gorillas and other wild animals, many of them endangered and legally protected, are being killed in rigged hunts, costing thousands of pounds, for the pleasure of wealthy American and European tourists, a television investigation claims.

In film from South Africa a lactating lioness is shown being separated from her bewildered cubs and shot by a German hunter only a few yards away from them on the other side of a wire fence. It takes ten shots and several minutes for the animal to die.

The footage is contained in *Making A Killing*, the first in a new series of *The Cook Report*, to be transmitted by ITV on May 6, in which the veteran investigator Roger Cook poses as a wealthy businessman keen to shoot big game. "We discovered that, if you have enough money and the right contacts, you can go and shoot any animal in the world, no matter how rare or protected by law that species may be," Cook says.

"You do not even have to be a good shot because the animals are often baited into fenced areas or drugged so they become sitting targets."

In the Mokolo Game Ranch in South Africa, Cook, using the alias of James Rogers, agrees to pay $18,000 (£11,100) for a guaranteed opportunity to shoot a lion.

In Spain a middleman is seen offering Cook the chance of shooting gorillas in Cameroon and tigers in Malaysia.

Scientists create the eight-day petunia

By Nigel Hawkes

GENETIC engineering has created a petunia that keeps its flowers four times longer than normal. Herry Klee, of the University of Florida, says that any type of flower could be made to last longer in the garden and in the house.

"We've had flowers that have lasted for weeks on the laboratory bench," says Dr Klee. "We're very excited about it. I think it will be important for the florist industry and for the gardener. The aim is to put the gene into varieties that the gardener will use for bedding plants."

The petunias were given a defective gene from *Arabidopsis*, a small weed-like plant that has been the subject of intensive investigation. The gene is reponsible for making the receptor for ethylene, a gas that ripens fruit and makes flowers shed their petals. The engineered plants cannot produce the receptor, the "socket" into which the ethylene plugs.

If the plants cannot sense ethylene, they do not shed their flowers. In laboratory experiments, Dr Klee reports in *Nature Biotechnology*, petunias which would lose their flowers in two days lasted eight.

So far, Dr Klee has grown the plants only in the greenhouse. Permission is needed from American regulatory authorities before genetically modified plants can be grown out of doors, and it is likely to be some years before the plants are available in garden centres.

Satellite data confirm supercontinent theory

SATELLITE data have helped to fill in the blanks in the history of Antarctica (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The observations, made by the European Space Agency's satellite ERS-1, confirm the existence of a missing piece of the jigsaw that once made up the supercontinent of Gondwanaland 180 million years ago. Today's continents can be put together to recreate Gondwanaland, but only if an extra piece, called the Bellingshausen Plate, is used to fill a gap where New Zealand broke away from Antarctica. It is assumed that the missing piece must have fused with the Antarctic plate, but proving it has been impossible.

Now, thanks to ERS-1 data, it is reported in *Science* that seabed topology provides the first clear proof that Antarctica was in two pieces 60 million years ago.

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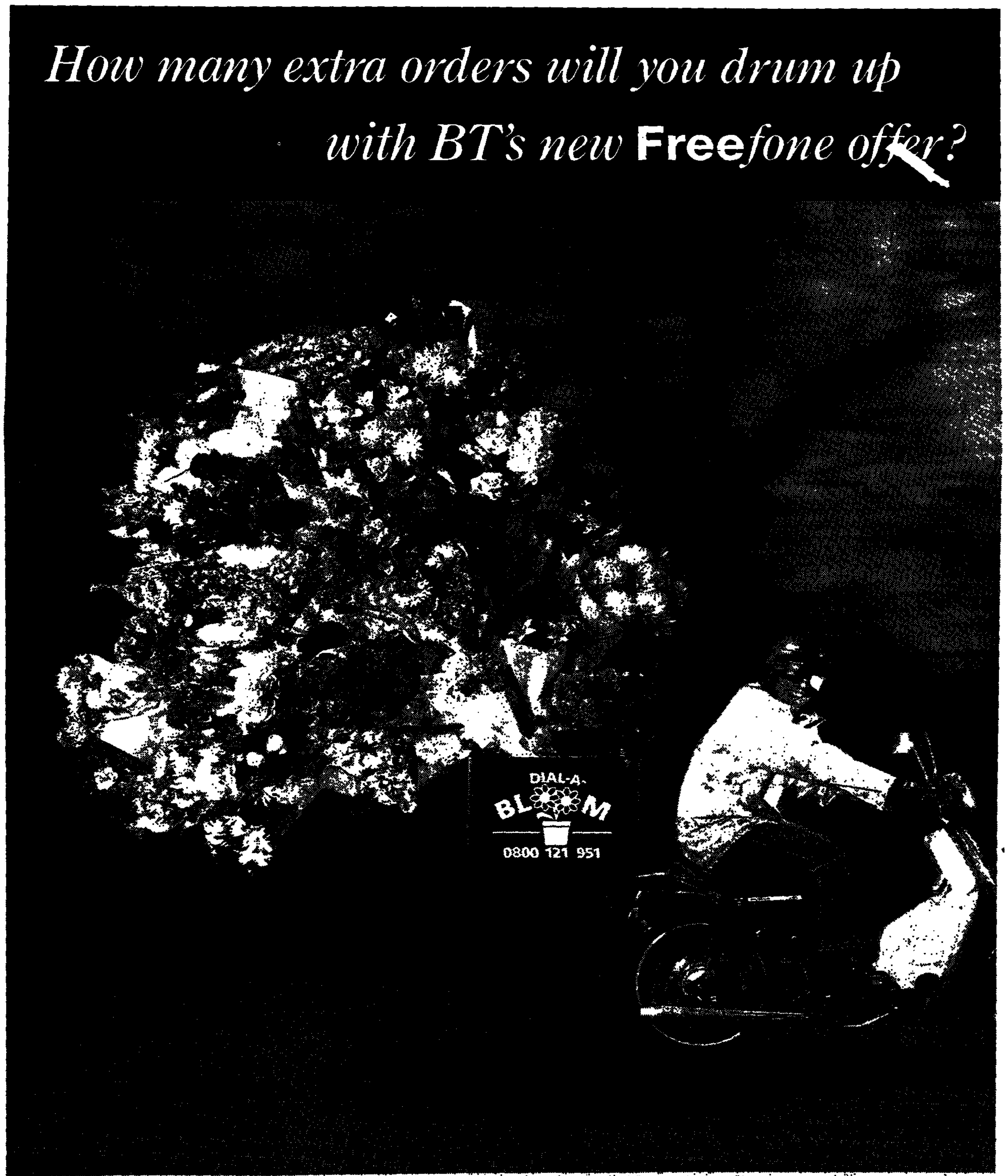
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Warning of child malnutrition

Stores accused of promoting bad diets among poor

By Robin Young

MANY British children are threatened with malnutrition in the next century and many people on low incomes are eating more poorly than they were at the start of the 1980s, according to two reports published today.

Supermarket chains are accused of contributing to the degradation of poor people's diets by one of the reports, from the National Food Alliance. A survey of special lines in leading supermarkets found that most items being promoted were fatty and sugary processed foods.

Some had no nutrition information on the labels and those that did often failed to give details about the sugar or saturated fat content. The best bargains, according to the report's author, Tim Lobstein, were usually bulk buys, which were only of use to those with ready money, a car for transport and space for storage.

Lack of money, inadequate shopping facilities and poor transport were the main causes of food poverty in Britain, according to the briefing paper. It says that poor diets are not a result of ignorance or fecklessness.

The hardest hit among low-income groups, it says, are women, particularly those with young children. Young people and the elderly are also badly affected. While high-income families eat healthier foods such as low-fat milk, wholemeal bread, fresh fish and fresh fruit and vegetables, low-income families eat more fat, sugar and salt and less of the essential nutrients, the paper says, arguing that diet explains why poor people have greater risk of dying prematurely from high-blood pressure, heart disease or stroke.

In a separate report, the famine relief charity Save the Children gives a warning that increasing numbers of children in Britain will be at risk of malnutrition in the next century unless urgent action is taken.

Its report shows that poorer families living in deprived areas are unable to give their children the food they need because they do not have access to a good variety of food.

Women living on estates in London, Glasgow, Coventry, Sunderland and Belfast had incomes that, despite their resourcefulness and best efforts, would not stretch to a balanced diet for their children, the report says. Without access to supermarkets selling fresh foods at reasonable prices, many women reported missing meals themselves so that their children should not go hungry.

Mike Aaronson, Save the Children's director-general, said yesterday: "It is shocking that we are facing the spectre of child malnutrition here. Lack of money, difficulty reaching decent affordable food and lack of safety nets are key factors. We call on the Government to make a firm commitment to develop clear policies which will build on low-income families' efforts to feed their children properly."

☐ *"If they don't eat a healthy diet it's their own fault!": Myths about food and low income*, Dr Tim Lobstein (National Food Alliance, 5-11 Worship Street, EC2A 2BH; £20)

☐ *Out of the Frying Pan: The true cost of feeding a family on a low income* (Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, London, SE5 8RD; in return for donation)

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Eating without stopping: on average, Britons eat a hamburger every five days and spend £41 a year on fast food

Britain is fast-food capital of Europe

BRITAIN spends more on fast food than any of the other main European countries, according to market research (Robin Young writes). Mintel estimates that Britons will spend almost £2.5 billion on hamburgers, pizza and chicken meals sold through fast-food chains this year, an average of £41 per head.

That compares with an estimated expenditure of £29 per head in France, £20 in Germany and £11 in Spain. The Italians come bottom of the fast-food league, spending only £3 per head.

Hamburgers dominate the fast-food market in all five countries, particularly in France, where they account for 88 per cent of fast-food sales. The proportion is only marginally smaller in Italy and Germany (86 per cent and 85 per cent respectively). In Britain and Spain sales are more evenly divided between hamburgers and pizzas, while chicken takes a minor share. In Italy sales of fast-food chicken are almost non-existent.

The survey's findings equate to the average Briton eating a hamburger every five days, or two pieces of fried chicken every three weeks, the researchers say.

Hamburgers are relatively cheaper in Britian than any of the other countries surveyed, with McDonald's and Burger King competing aggressively for market share. McDonald's British profits were £45 million in 1995, compared with a worldwide profit from 21,000 stores in 101 countries of just under £1 billion.

Chris Butcher, Mintel's leisure analyst, said yesterday: "Fast food is benefiting from the increasing trend towards snacking and convenience foods. Britain is the fast-food capital of Europe. The success of fast food in general lies in the standardised menus, where quality, quantity and price are guaranteed."

☐ *European Fast Food* (Mintel: £495)

THE BIG SPENDERS

	Annual (£m)	Per head (£)
UK	2,425	41
France	1,701	29
Germany	1,680	20
Spain	427	11
Italy	176	3

Pizza, hamburger and chicken chains only (Source: Mintel)

Council sunlamps 'safer' for the tanorexics

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

THE risk of contracting skin cancer from sunbeds is far greater in private health clubs than at council leisure centres, a skin expert says today. Sunbeds available in the commercial sector were said to emit a significantly greater level of dangerous ultraviolet rays.

The warning by Dr Andrew Wright, a consultant dermatologist from Bradford, comes as the Imperial Cancer Research Fund is highlighting the risks of "tanorexia" — suffered by sunbed addicts whose desire for a permanent tan leaves them with premature wrinkles, a leathery appearance, fragile, thin skin and a heightened risk of skin cancer.

Dr Wright tested 50 sunbeds and found that there was a threefold variation in the output of ultraviolet A. Overall, the levels in the 33 in council-run establishments were much lower.

Councils are being advised to remove sunbeds because of mounting evidence that the they can cause serious skin cancers. However, in a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Wright says: "Without further education of the public in the potential danger of sunbeds, their removal from local authority premises will drive those who wish to use them into the private sector, where the dangers may be greater."

About 11 per cent of women and 7 per cent of men use indoor tanning equipment. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund says that a tenth of them are in danger of becoming "tanorexics", using a sunbed more than 30 times a year.

Dr Veronique Patel, consultant dermatologist at the Royal London Hospital, said that many women, particularly in urban areas, liked to keep a constant tan: "These women have had a tanned skin for so many years now that they cannot give it up, even when you tell them it is dangerous. They get really miserable when you tell them they should stop, and most of them can't."

In a new fact sheet for the summer, the fund warns that 30 minutes on a sunbed will give the equivalent dose of ultraviolet A radiation as a full day on the beach. This type of radiation is the main kind emitted by sunbeds and was believed to be safe until recently.

The fund says its research shows that there is no safe level of use for sunbeds. While not calling for a ban, it wants people to understand the risks. The safest cure for tanorexia, it says, is a dye to tint the skin, used in conjunction with a very high protection sun cream.

Transition of HIV to Aids is speeding up

By Ian Murray

HIV has become more aggressive in the 1990s, with infected people progressing to Aids twice as fast on average than in the past.

A study of 285 patients infected between 1985 and 1995 has shown that those who contracted the disease after December 1989 had a higher probability of decline in their immunity system and began suffering from Aids sooner than those who were infected before that date.

The research, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, involved regular testing of patients who tested positive but had been negative at some time in the previous 12 months.

The patients included 208 men and 87 women, aged between 17 and 61 of whom 163 were drug injectors, 64 male homosexuals and 56 heterosexuals. The research showed that age, sex, social background, or the way in which a person became infected, made no difference to the findings.

Pig diseases will push up pork price

By Robin Young

PRICES for bacon, ham and pork are bound to rise shortly because of outbreaks of swine fever in Holland and foot and mouth disease in Taiwan. British supermarkets say that so far they have absorbed the increased cost of the international surge in pig meat prices but small butchers have already had to increase prices of bacon and pork by about 10 per cent.

Advertised promotions this week include:

Asda: rump steak £6.49 kg, pork chops £2.99, frozen premium cod fillets in batter £2.85 for 600g, cherry tomatoes 49p for 227g, broccoli 45p lb, raspberries 99p for 125g.

Co-op: stewing steak £2.84 kg, turkey thigh joint with herb seasoning £2.49 for 800g, Cherry Valley crispy Peking duck £4.59 for 400g, asparagus tips £1.49 for 100g, South African sweet potatoes 66p lb, vintage Stilton £6.49 kg, garlic ciabatta £1.09 for 230g, pitta breads 55p for eight.

Harrods: Thai pork ribs £4.50 kg, grilled vegetables £2.29 for 100g, pumpkin tortelloni £1.99 for 100g, Culatello parma ham £5.99 for 100g. Buchette Sariette goats cheese £3.99 each.

Iceland: chicken quarter pounders £1.99 for four, part boned chicken breasts £3.99 for 1.5kg, roast chicken legs £1.19 for 283g, cod fillet fish fingers £1.39 for 16, rainbow trout £2.99 for 800g, whole beans 74p for 907g, garden peas £1.49 for 1.81kg.

Kwik Save: Ross tendergrill grillsteaks £1.67 for six, Lion mixed herbs 33p, Shloer £1.39 ltr, Anchor butter 61p for 250g, Lurpak butter 78p for 250g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken breast portions £2.99 for four, quiche lorraine £1.49 for 400g, haddock fillets in light crisp breadcrumb £2.99 for four, Tuscan extra virgin olive oil £2.99 for 500ml, strawberries £1.99 for 500g, NZ Cox apples £1.59 for six.

Morrisons: beef brisket £1.49 lb, frying steak £3.28 kg, turkey steak £4.38 kg, mackerel 85p lb, plaice fillet £3.39 lb, prepared Iceberg lettuce 79p for 250g, large oranges 69p for six. Sun Red seedless grapes 99p lb.

Safeway: frying steak £6.49 kg, medium chicken £1.89 kg, rainbow trout £3.49 for four (850g), unsmoked bacon steaks 69p for 200g, buffet pork pies 99p for four, mature Davidstow cheddar £1.99 lb, corned beef 29p ¼ lb.

Sainsbury's: fresh NZ leg of lamb £5.29 kg, boneless pork leg £3.99 kg, silverside/topside beef £4.38 kg, frozen prawns £3.79 for 400g, frozen chicken breast £3.95 for 900g, Jersey Royal new potatoes 49p lb, plums 79p lb, black seedless grapes 74p lb.

Somerfield: boneless rolled pork shoulder roast £2.79 kg, meat loaf in gravy £1.65 for 454g, turkey breast steaks £2.39 for four (450g), smoked haddock fillet £1.88 lb, tomatoes 79p for 12, carrots 29p for 500g, prepacked Iceberg lettuce 79p for 200g.

Tesco: topside £4.69 kg, pork loin steaks £4.99 kg, lamb chops £7.99 kg, haddock fillet £1.95 lb, golden trout £1.89 lb, dressed Cromer crab £2.49 each, asparagus £1.59 bundle, corn on the cob 99p for two, Packham pears 39p lb, large Galia melons £1.69 each.

Waitrose: eight spiced pork sausages (379g) £1.35, diced veal £2.49 for 340g, diced braising beef £2.59 for 500g, free range chickens up to 2.3 kg £2.99, frozen petit pois 99p for 2lbs, red onions 69p lb, beansprouts 45p for 350g, cauliflower 49p lb., avocado pears 99p for two, Jonagold apples 45p lb.

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ELECTION 97

DAY 6

On the stump with Bell's belles

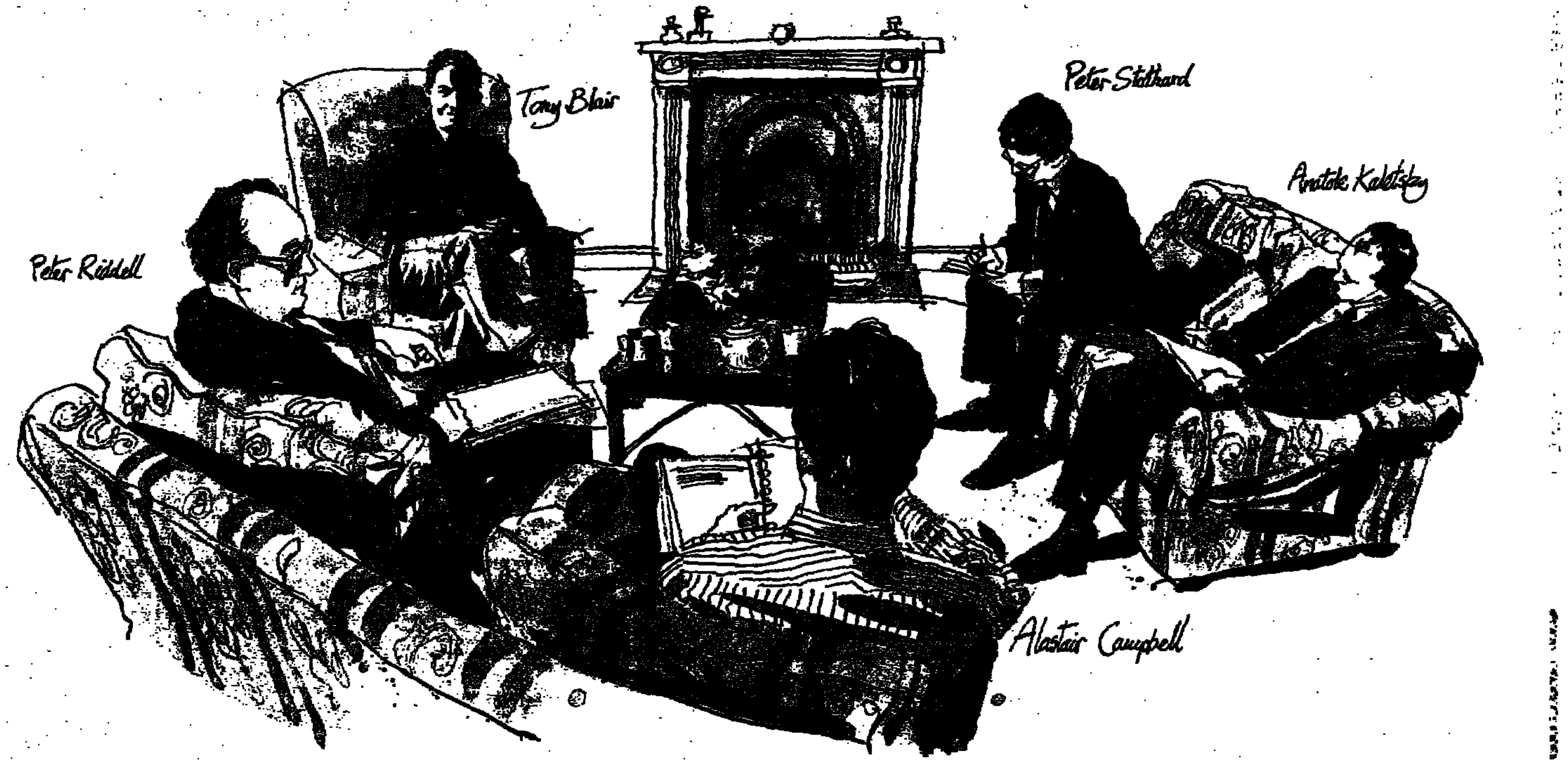
What the parties say about Ireland

Arthur Scargill hits out at the 'turncoat Tories' of New Labour

page 15

Blair waits to unwrap the train set

MATTHEW COOK



The Times, continuing its interviews with party leaders, talks to Tony Blair

By Peter Stothard

When we spoke to Paddy Ashdown last week it was in the artificial light of the Editor's windowless office at *The Times*. *When we spoke to John Major it was* in the sharp natural light of the first floor at Downing Street. Tony Blair spoke to us yesterday afternoon in the half-light, at cloudy moments almost the gloaming, of his Islington front-room. As fell the light, so fell the conversations.

The Labour leader was as guarded in his words as the *Prime Minister had been bold; he was as mysterious as Ashdown had been bright. Sitting in front of the net curtains,* beneath a barely visible poster for *his* local Labour candidate, he was like a friendly fortune-teller. When the sun found a way through to his face, it lit up just half of it, a mere three of the famous shining teeth, a few paper petals of the peonies in a bowl by his side and one sleeve of his new regulation-purple casual shirt. The other side lay in colourless obscurity.

It was a peculiar feeling for *us — and it seemed so for him too. We were talking about an* election that he knows he has won, about a job he already knows to be his, in a manner that allowed the open admission of neither of those facts.

Peter Riddell began by asking about his plans for government, the possibility that he might put into action his ideas about ending "tribal politics", that he may bring an outsider into the Cabinet or change Whitehall structures. *Blair did not rule out any of these prospects. He saw the advan*tages of a new Labour government being quickly different in style from its predecessors. But he promised only "the broadest use of the talents available" and a "leading role" for John Prescott before lapsing into smiles of concealment.

When the questioning became especially *intrusive, he would give a grand unbroken smile,* the sort that the cartoonists love, saying better by this than by any words that *there* were territories, large dark areas of territory, that this interview was not going to explore. "We can offer a fresh start in politics as in everything else . . . and, having won as new Labour, *we are going to govern as new Labour,"* he told us, looking ceilingward at one of two small chandeliers.

After that Blair became more cheerful — expatiating along the lines familiar from his campaign speeches. We heard about education and health and welfare-to-work and toughness on *crime and* its causes. Neither *his content nor his manner of delivery provided the slightest distraction* from the consideration of what his previous remark about "governing as new Labour" might mean.

His mandate, as he sees it, will not be to reverse Tory reforms: "There is no point in being daft about it . . . there's plenty of things that are very good about Britain . . . and there's no point in being silly *and saying that the country is falling to bits, it's not." There is even more certainly no mandate for old Labour pro*grammes: "Unwanted policies that are stuck in the past." The mandate is for new Labour.

What is new Labour, we are left to wonder. Is it simply what the voters voted for? What are the voters voting for? For new Labour. But what is new Labour? If the Blairs' front room had had a piano — and a piano *seemed strangely* absent *amid this* plain and *comfortable* Victorian *setting — we might all have turned this paradox into a new Lab*our song, to the tune of *Frère Jacques* or *London Bridge is Falling Down.*

Riddell brought us back to reality by repeating his questions about Labour's plans for government in slightly different ways. Blair's answers mingled amusement at our effrontery and apprehen*sion lest even talking about power might yet deprive him* of it. He showed a superstition that seemed to me to be almost childlike. *It is* as though a young boy knows that Christmas is coming and that there is a new train set waiting for him in the attic; and yet he worries that to talk about passenger-carriages, points or stations might *irritate Father Christmas and keep the gift locked up* in the chimney.

Anatole Kaletsky likened him later to a man with a winning lottery ticket on a Saturday night who sits immobile in a corner, unable to believe that his luck is real, until the Monday morning *when the shop that sold him the ticket opens and he can hold the prize* in his hand.

Despite the reticence, however, it does seem that Labour voters who expect a dash of instant activity to distinguish a Blair government from the Tory past will be disappointed. "I'm not a great believer in a dazzling first hundred days which then disappears up in smoke," he said. "I much prefer to be continually communicating why we're doing things on education and welfare, taking it step by step *along* the road of a different direction." He *tells us that people did not want* a revolu*tion and* "barricades *in the* streets". And we *sit there* wondering when anyone last thought that they did.

Kaletsky asked him about what new Labour could seriously do without imposing new taxation, reminding him that the Association of British Chambers of Commerce is merely the latest independent organisation to say that new taxation will be necessary. *The only other people who believe in the Tory spending pledges apart from the Tories are* you and Gordon Brown, he gibes.

Blair humps back into his armchair at this point. He clearly knows that Kaletsky is telling the truth. The bright side of his face looks as though it might even rise to the bait. But the dark *side* wins. He looks down and twists his feet in his black suede shoes as though he could make a fist *with his toes or even kick back a response like his footballing photo-opportunity partner,* Kevin Keegan. And then he subsides back into the official response that "there are no hidden spending promises that require hidden taxes . . . we can't work on the assumption that the Conservative budget is wrong".

Why not, Kaletsky asks, you accuse them of *lying* about *everything else? The answer is a smile. If he were to challenge* the Treasury figures, the Tories could accuse Labour of wanting to tax and spend more. If that accusation were believed, Labour would lose votes. So, the smile continues.

Kaletsky retires in impatience. My own certainty about tax is simply hardened by all this play: *Times*-reading tax-payers are being hugged now in order to be squeezed later.

Blair says that as every day goes by he thinks of governing more and of electioneering less. He admitted *that* he was nervous at the beginning of the camapaign but says that he is now more relaxed and is even enjoying himself. He certainly looks at ease as he sets out his general approach to the failure of schools and GP fundholders. And then he suddenly starts up again. Perhaps he *thinks he is* being too relaxed, or even, sin and horror, complacent. He jumps *forward in* his chair and attacks *his critics for failing to give* credit for all the advances that Labour has made: for example the pension proposals of Chris Smith, the local candidate whose name is twice in the window.

He claps his left palm with the back of his right hand, making a clap to accompany every point. *I count* ten *single claps before the speech is over, followed by bursts of clapping* to back up subsidiary points. We are no longer in the mood for *Frère Jacques*. If there were a trumpeter behind the pale gold curtains, or a set of drums under the tapestry-laden stairs, we could all be *doing* the cha-cha-cha.

When he is on the campaigning offensive, the Labour leader is as confident as the conductor of a seaside dance band — almost fragrant with the confidence that he can do the business without thinking too much, almost gleaming with the certainty that the performance always goes *down well and will continue to do so. It is is in those other and* governing moments, the ones that he says are increasing in number every day, that there are the signs of fear.

He wants to be seen as a radical. "There is something improbable about being a *radical leader of the Labour Party and a cautious prime minister.* I won't be. I'll be a radical prime minister." He wants to be seen as a doer, not a sayer: "The single most frustrating thing about opposition politics is that you're always saying, never doing." But there nothing in the substance of our interview that suggests that the Opposition *cast of mind has yet changed, that the saying man is poised to be the doing man next week.* Perhaps his plans are crystallising by the day and he is simply wary of displaying them to potential Tory attack. Or perhaps he has many fewer fixed plans than we think and is genuinely unconcerned about his Hundred Days and the need to keep the momentum of victory.

He *is curiously dis*missive of the constitutional proposals that are set to be the centrepiece of his first legislative programme. He does not repeat the gaffe of early in the campaign when he likened a Scottish assembly to a parish council. But he does say that after five years in office he does not expect any *constitutional* change *to be his greatest legacy. "The improvements* in education will be much more important than that," he says.

When we interviewed Major last week *he was* keen that Blair should take advice from him about how to negotiate in Europe. *Blair says that he is perfectly happy to take him up on this offer. "He meant it* in a responsible way and I take it in that spirit." Blair's own position, however, despite the hardening Eurosceptic rhetoric in recent press articles, is not reassuring. He gives his usual description of the "big" (sometimes "formidable") obstacles *to* Britain *entering* a European monetary union. When Kaletsky presses him on what precisely these obstacles are, all his answers concern obstacles to EMU itself going ahead. None of them relates to Britain's decision to give up the pound and enter the system.

Blair *confirms in this con*text that "we are *not* talking about technical obstacles such as Bank of England independence". Riddell asks him about how Britain could avoid isolation in a "flexible Europe" — and received no good answer. Kaletsky asks about what he might bring back from the inter-governmental *conference as a token of the new new-Labour relationship with his partners.* He cites reform of the common agricultural policy, progress on enlargement of EU membership and completion of the single market. This seems to us a hefty agenda for one weekend.

Kaletsky, who as readers will have seen this week, formed a far-from-favourable impression of Major at our *meeting,* agreed with the Prime Minister *on this point.* "Blair will be eaten alive at Amsterdam," he prophesies as we leave.

Blair himself insists that Major and Kaletsky are wrong. "I haven't been ripped to pieces yet in my political career and I don't intend to start now." There are hints there of prime ministerial steel.

The final part of our *conversation consists of a speech by* Blair *about his role* in the worldwide changes in the Centre Left. He is at first chary of too close comparisons with Clinton. Then Riddell makes a disparaging remark about the American President's first-term record. The Labour leader almost jumps out of his chair. His cushion is pushed *aside* and his hands start clapping and pointing as *though conducting Frère Jacques* and *dancing the* cha-cha-cha at the same time. "Well, he got re-elected. That seems pretty good to me," he says.

Labour sets golden target of putting Britain in the Olympic top ten

LABOUR set an ambitious new target for British sports stars yesterday and declared that the nation would shoot back into the Olympic medal league top ten within a decade (Jill Sherman writes).

Jack Cunningham claimed that, with the help of a Labour government, Britain would put behind its worst-ever performance at Atlanta (36th) and scoop up the medals as it did under Harold *Wilson in the* 1960s.

But it was under Liberal administrations, at the turn of the century, *that* Britons strode the *world* sporting stage. Only once has Britain actually topped the league, in 1908 in London, when Asquith was Prime Minister. Four years later at Stockholm, Britain came in third when Asquith was still in charge. A quick tally of the Olympic successes of each political party puts the Liberals, rather than Labour, way out ahead. Since 1896, Britain has competed at the Olympics 14 times under a Tory government, five times under Labour and twice under the Liberals. The Tories have an average finishing position of 11.92, Labour 9.8 and the Liberals 2. But Dr Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, was determined to ensure that Labour now puts British athletes back on the map.

"I would *hope* that, with coherent commitment within a decade, we could see Britain back among the top *ten* most successful nations *at the* Olympics," he said.

Yesterday Labour's plans won backing from Tessa Sanderson, the javelin gold medallist; *Shaun Edwards, the* rugby league star; Brian Moore, the former England rugby union player; and Brendan Foster, *an Olympic* bronze medallist at 10,000m.

Olympic Games		*Position in medal table*	*Party in power*	*Olympic Games*		*Position in medal table*	*Party in power*
1896	Athens	5th	Conservative	1956	Melbourne	8th	Conservative
1900	Paris	3rd	Conservative	1960	Rome	12th	Conservative
1904	St Louis	7th	Conservative	1964	Tokyo	10th	Con/Lab*
1908	London	1st	Liberal	1968	Mexico	10th	Labour
1912	Stockholm	3rd	Liberal	1972	Munich	12th	Conservative
1920	Antwerp	4th	Coalition	1976	Montreal	13th	Labour
1924	Paris	4th	Labour	1980	Moscow	9th	Conservative
1928	Amsterdam	11th	Conservative	1984	Los Angeles	11th	Conservative
1932	Los Angeles	8th	Coalition	1988	Seoul	12th	Conservative
1936	Berlin	10th	Conservative	1992	Barcelona	13th	Conservative
1948	London	12th	Labour	1996	Atlanta	36th	Conservative
1952	Helsinki	18th	Conservative				

* General election

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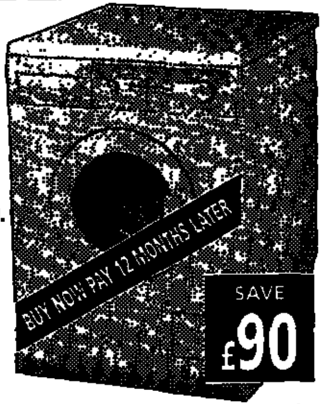

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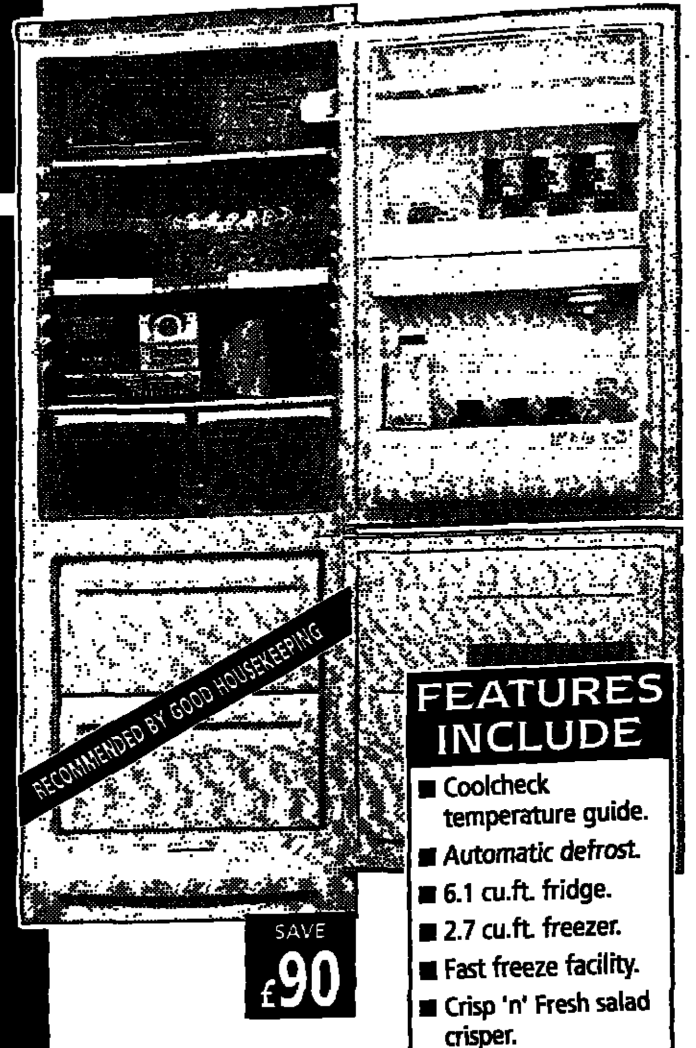

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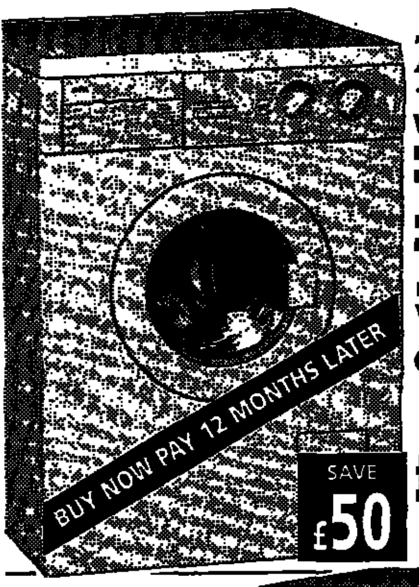

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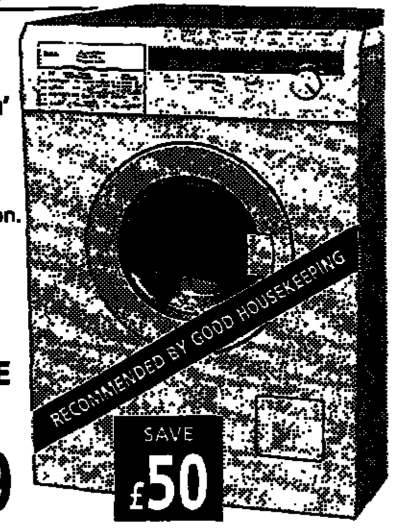

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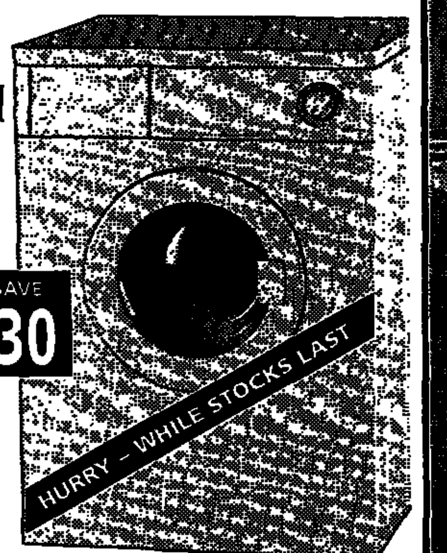

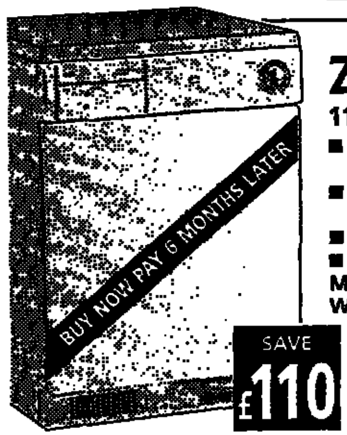

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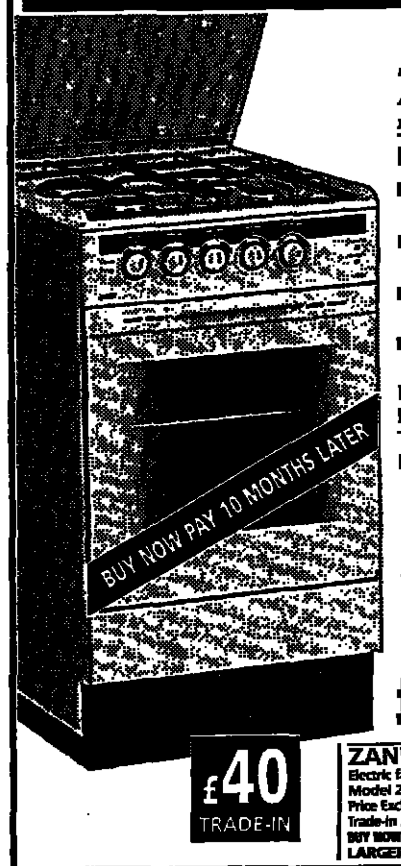

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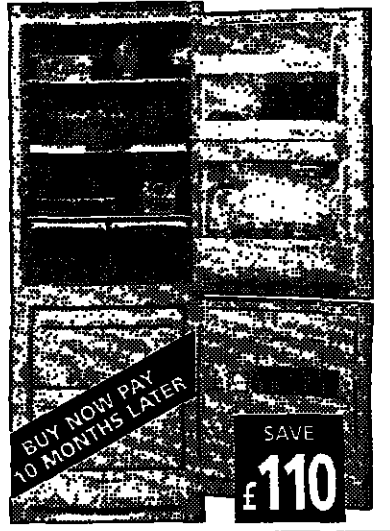

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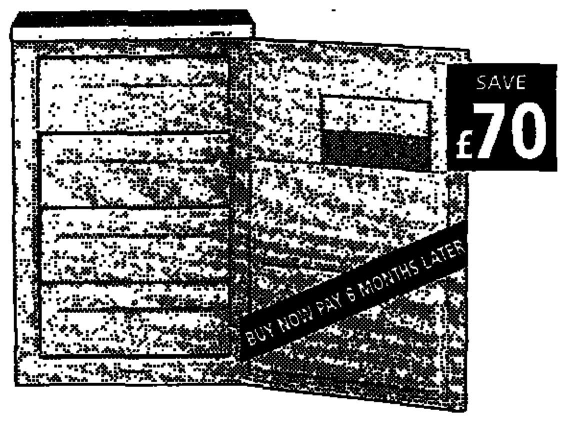

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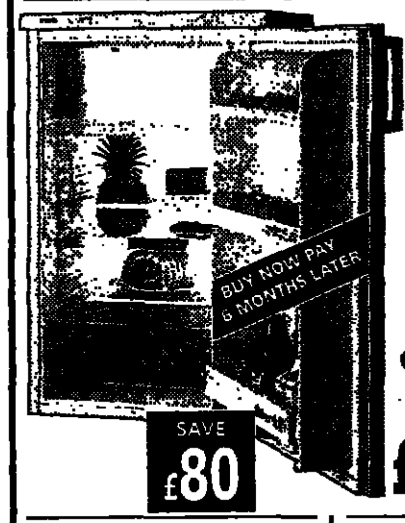

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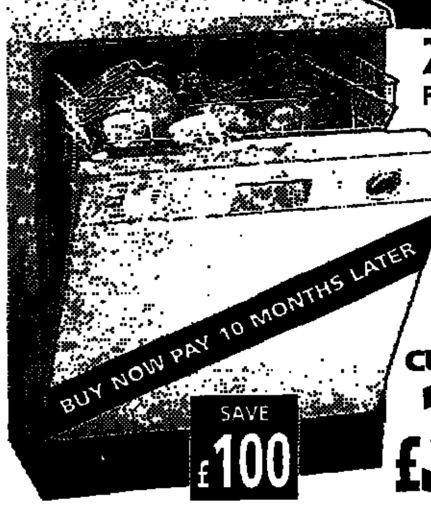

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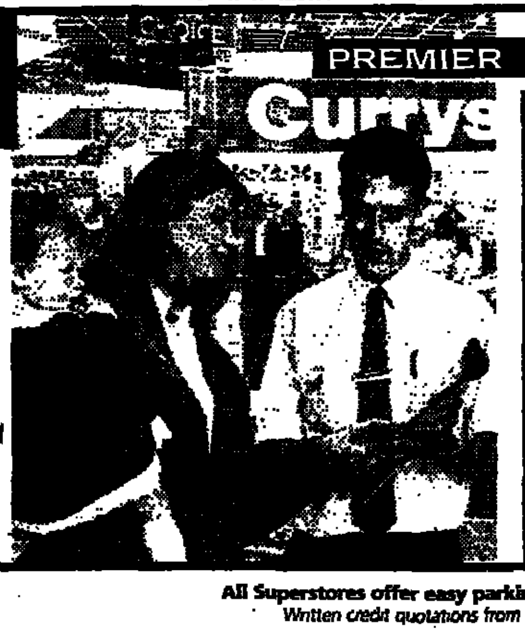

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Central Office risks voters' condemnation over intensity of personal attacks on Labour leader

Pension gibe has Tories reaching for the vitriol

The evidence suggests that the public dislikes name-calling, but yesterday the abuse reached new depths of rancour. **Philip Webster** explains why

IF EVER evidence were needed that Tony Blair has got under the collective skin of the Tory party, yesterday *afternoon's* Conservative press conference was it. Never in recent history have such serious personal charges been thrown at an Opposition leader as in 20 minutes at Central Office when Mr Blair was accused *of lying no fewer than* eight times.

Neil Kinnock was accused of a lot, but never outright lying. Michael Foot was far too harmless to the Tories to be treated in that way.

Campaign-hardened journalists listened with increasing fascination as the vitriol poured forth from Brian *Mawhinney and Stephen* Dorrell. The party chairman said that Mr Blair had been telling lies about *pensions*, the NHS and VAT on food in a "cynical pre-programmed attempt to divert attention from Labour's weaknesses".

Mr Dorrell said of the Labour leader: "The more he panics the more he lies." He had been telling "barefaced, despicable lies".

It was a big gamble for the Tories, *but one they had to* take. All the evidence suggests that the public dislikes name-calling. *The Conservatives* knew they would be accused of desperation. But the alternative, *as Dr Mawhinney told* journalists, was to let Mr Blair's claims about the abolition of the state pension go unchallenged.

The day had begun with both sides hurling horror stories at each *other*. The Prime Minister predicted an emergency Labour *Budget to* raise taxes and the Labour leader claimed the Tories would increase VAT and abolish the state pension.

As the opening of the final week was *marked* by a violent outbreak of scare tactics, Mr Blair warned voters that *they had a stark choice between a* divided country or a new start.

Kenneth Clarke and Mr Major claimed that people could face an extra £640 tax hike to finance Labour's £12 billion spending "black hole". That was a smear, *Mr Blair* said.

Of Mr Blair's assertion that a *Conservative government* would rob millions of their state pensions, Mr Major said *that was "absolutely scurrilous*, absolutely scurrilous".

For a time it seemed that *the campaign had ground to* an unpleasant snarling stalemate. But the afternoon's events lifted it to a new level of personal abuse *and one* which seems set to continue for its final days.

It was the supposition that journalists were treating their own claims on the black hole and Labour claims on the pensions as equals that sent Tory *strategists into orbit*. They believe privately, with some justification, that while both *may* be impossible fully to sustain, the Labour charge that pensions are truly under threat cannot stand examination. It was probably a pity that they had chosen yesterday to *refocus* on the "black hole", a "been there, done that" story in the eyes of most papers.

With less than a week to *polling, Tory frustration and* anger at what they see as the injustice of Mr Blair sailing *smoothly through the election* boiled over.

There are *hints from* both *sides that* the pensions issue may be playing badly for the Conservatives. Given the widespread praise for the initiative when it was unveiled just before the election, the Conservatives are outraged *at what they see as* Labour mispresentation.

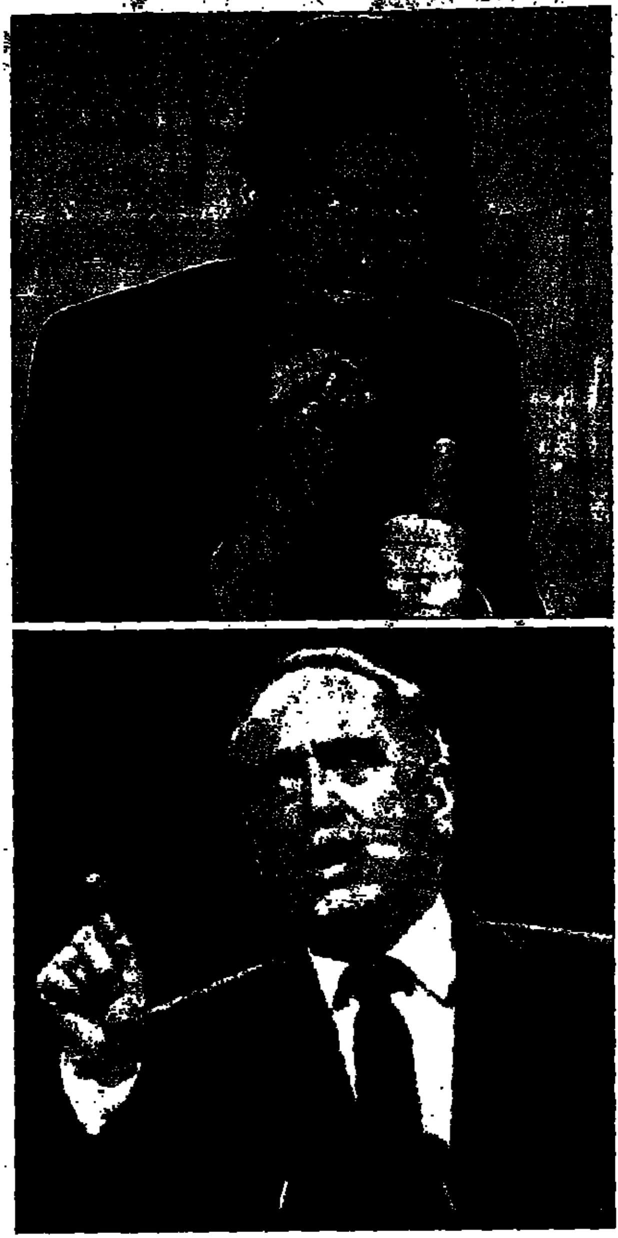
They decided the best form of defence was attack, acknowledging the risk that they were giving the issue an even higher profile. Labour were last night threatening to change *their plans and campaign* on it agian today.

The other purpose behind yesterday's attack was the knowledge that "Blair the Movie", as *last* night's election broadcast about the Labour leader has been dubbed, was about to hit the screens.

Enough had been written about it in advance for Central *Office to suspect that* a flattering portrayal of the "raw Blair" was about to surface. The "lie" exercise was clearly an attempt to puncture him.

Earlier in the day Mr Blair, standing alone on the platform *as he brought his new* offensive to London, delivered an unscripted plea for voters *not to underestimate the size* of the choice before them next week and the implications of *that choice*.

The Tories have given notice that they still believe their best chance of a comeback is to wreck Mr Blair's credibility. It could be a nasty final week.



Stephen Dorrell, left, and Brian Mawhinney

Telling fact from fiction in battle over old-age pay

BY JILL SHERMAN

TORY leaders yesterday rejected Labour charges about their pension scheme, under which young people in their early twenties will be given £9 a week rebate from their National *Insurance contributions* to build up their own private pension scheme.

The Government will also transfer the 5 per cent of earnings from Serps into new pension funds. Today's workers and pensioners would be *unaffected* by the scheme which would be phased in after 2001.

The charge by Tony Blair that the Tories intend to abolish the state pension is not strictly true. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, made clear when he announced his new Basic Pension Plus scheme that the basic state pension would be protected, and uprated in line with inflation.

Mr Lilley gave a commitment that the Government would guarantee the basic state pension if pensions funds did not produce an adequate income.

Labour claims that the plans "open the door to full privatisation of the state pension". It insists that, if the pension funds go bust, there *would be no money* to guarantee even the basic state pension. Mr Blair's accusation about a shortfall in funding has more credibility. The Tories have admitted that their scheme would cost £160 million in the first year, *accumulating each year to* a maximum of £7 billion by 2040, but saving £40 billion in the long term.

They have not spelt out where the money would come from in the short term. They have admitted that the £7 billion *is net of the income that* would be raised by scrapping tax relief on pension contributions, but they insist that the money will be raised by the equalisation of the pension age to 65, raising £15 billion by 2025.

Labour does not accept the £15 billion figure, saying this was never built into the pension plans and that there is no date on when that income would accrue. In the early stages it seems plausible that taxes might have to go up, or certainly *not* go down, or spending cut.

Mr Blair's charge that older people would be brought into the scheme is dubious and seems a tactic to play on ears *of present pensioners*.

But the Tories have insisted that no existing pensioners and no one now in work would be affected.

Clarke defies rebels over single currency

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

KENNETH CLARKE defiantly raised the pro-European banner yesterday by insisting that John Major would have no choice but to stick to his "negotiate-and-decide" policy on the single currency if he won the election next week.

Eurosceptic Tory candidates privately expressed irritation with the Chancellor after he suggested that, in spite of more than 200 of them opposing a single *currency* outright, in contravention of the party line, it could not change after the election. One candidate said that Mr Clarke's views had been the only serious stumbling-block to the Tories fighting the election on a pledge to save the pound.

The Conservative manifesto holds to the agreed "wait-and-see" line, refusing to oppose Britain entering a single currency in advance of negotiations in which Mr Major wants to play a full role. On *BBC Radio 4's Today*, Mr Clarke was repeatedly asked about his own position in the light of the likely presence in the next Parliament of large numbers of MPs who were committed opponents of Britain joining a single currency.

In remarks that upset the Eurosceptics, Mr Clarke said: "I don't believe the Prime *Minister can possibly form* a government other than on the manifesto put forward by the Cabinet and put before the British people at the general election." Reminded that 233 *Conservative candidates had* said in their election addresses that they were against Britain *joining a single currency*, Mr Clarke said they had also given a declaration that they *supported government* policy.

The Chancellor is understood to have strong private *reservations* about *some* aspects of the Tory campaign, particularly the use of the advertisement depicting Tony Blair sitting on the knee of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

Mr Clarke said the question of the 233 candidates was "a matter for whipping in the next Parliament". He added: "I am in *tune with the Conservative* manifesto." He had been attending Council of *Finance Ministers meetings* on a monthly basis, he said. "I can only say I am extremely glad that I didn't go to these negotiations with the whole thing cut and dried as far as the British are concerned before we went there. I wouldn't have had the considerable influence on discussions that, with all modesty, I think I have."

John Major was urged by one of Britain's biggest companies to ignore Eurosceptic demands to rule out entry into a single currency. *During a visit to Siemens*, the German multinational electronics group, Leww *Aviss, the personnel director*, said: "We want a strong unified Europe. We want economic and *monetary* union of which we are a part." A spokesman also said the social chapter "doesn't make the slightest bit of difference because this is not a sweatshop".

Please don't stop me if you've heard it all before

PETER BARNARD

BEFORE new technology the only way to get these words into print would have been to telephone the copytakers at *The Times, who in those days* mostly consisted of men wearing carpet slippers and sucking *on* pipes. About five paragraphs into the dictation, they were liable to utter the words all reporters dreaded: "Is there much more of this?"

Listening to Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine and other luminaries on the radio yesterday, I understood what lay behind the exasperated tones of the men who *painstakingly took down* my words. Indeed, I was sorely tempted to ring up Mr *Heseltine* on Talk Radio and ask him, yes, whether there was much more of this.

This election campaign is coming around for the second time, like a summer repeat on television. What we are hearing now has surely been heard five weeks ago.

Mr Heseltine worked up a great lather yesterday when he was asked about the leaking of *Labour's* campaign "*war book*", which he said contained the most disgraceful lies. But he did not sound *convincing*, any more than other attempts to whip up a drama sound convincing. *This* is a bloodless campaign and more's the pity.

Past elections have *offered defining* moments, real choices. At the end of the last long period of *Tory rule*, in 1964, Labour's "13 wasted years" campaign, together with its promise *of a modernist* agenda, offered a theme that echoed down the airwaves *and imbued* the electorate with genuine excitement.

The current campaign is being fought in a circular arena and the armies are marching around *its* circumference, not towards each other but behind each other. *Every Tory footprint* is replicated by a Labour one in a political version of hopscotch: *each side* lands on the same squares, concerned only to avoid the cracks.

Every leading politician has appeared on every network *trying to convince us of* two things that ought to be mutually exclusive: they are *different from their* opponents but, don't worry, nothing much will change.

If this campaign were a radio network it would be Radio 4. The new Controller of that station, James Boyle, has promised change, but not very much change, and only introduced over several years. The putative next Controller of the United Kingdom, Tony *Blair, could hardly have put it* better.

The comparison may sound a *little unfair* and it is *unfair* ... to Radio 4, which has lately carried a genuine *debate* between *two* men with very different agendas.

Unfortunately these two men were not *John Major* and Tony Blair, but the landowner Simon Pemberton and the smallholder Eddie Grundy. The most exciting set-to since the election campaign started was not on the *Today* programme or *Election Call*, but *The Archers*.

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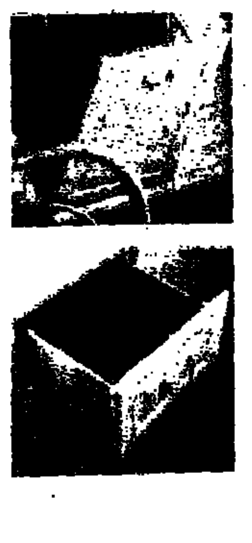

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Hamilton under strain as safety slips away

Charles Bremner sees Martin Bell's effect on his rival's campaign smile

DELIGHT flashed on the faces of Christine and Neil Hamilton when they were doing their shopping yesterday morning. Joy Austin, a local voter, had accosted them while the MP's pugnacious wife, clad in a dazzling candy-striped blazer, was loading her trolley in a Knutsford supermarket. "We reckon you are ten out of ten," Mrs Austin said. "You have stood by your man."

The compliment was balm to the MP's spouse. "Do you know, I was described as 'the wife from hell' on the front page of the *Daily Mirror*," she exclaimed. "Actually, I call her my heavenly body," chipped in Mr Hamilton.

Hamilton: turned safe seat into Tory marginal

The moment in the vegetable aisle was relief for the parliamentary couple, whose 13 years in one of the safest Tory seats have fallen under the shadow of sleaze and are threatened by Martin Bell. The media circus has left town, giving the Hamiltons what they say is their first chance to buy their groceries again and even joke about their notorious involvement with the shop owned by Mohamed Al Fayed. Chatting with a pensioner, the MP spotted a Harrods receptacle in her hand. "I don't like your bag," he said.

Despite the rock-like support of the loyalists who run Tatton's Tory machine, Mr Hamilton is struggling to keep up the campaign smile as he takes to the streets of Cheshire again. Two weeks since Mr Bell, a former BBC correspondent, bowled up to Tatton with his daughter and friends to wage what seemed a quixotic cause, his campaign is making an impact and Mr Hamilton, possessor of a 22,000 majority in 1992, finds himself the defender of a marginal seat.

Polls are showing a Bell lead and bookmakers are offering odds of five to six on both candidates. Support for the white-suited man from the Beeb is visible in his white campaign ribbons and the stark white posters in gardens, windows and cars, emblazoned simply with the name Bell in black.

Still absorbing his crash course in politics, Mr Bell, 58, is coming to terms with the idea that he might actually win. "It's beginning to occur to me that a political career which I thought would last 48 hours is maybe going to last four of five years," he said shaking his head as if in sorrow at the prospect of victory.

Evidence of Bell energy is his beehive of a campaign office. Some 30 volunteers were stuffing envelopes there yesterday and others were tapping at computers under the eyes of "Bell's Belles", the team of young female workers headed by Kate Jones, his agent, and Melissa, his 23-year-old daughter, who is managing the campaign.

Ms Jones, who is Mr Bell's book editor from London, acknowledged her inexperience. "It's a massive strain," she said. But they had been getting good advice and were borne along by the enthusiasm of an army of local volunteers, she said.

One senior defector from the local Conservative organisation said the Bell campaign was "totally amateur" but that it did not matter because Mr Hamilton's standing, in his own party's opinion polls, was "a disaster". As Mr Hamilton was finishing his shopping yesterday, Mr Bell, less diffident than before, was promising at a coffee morning in the true-blue town of Alderley Edge that he was "entirely motivated and ready to serve you".

He has just produced a manifesto, in which he declares himself on other issues than Mr Hamilton, voicing a mildly sceptical view of the EU and refusing to back a local campaign against a second runway at nearby Manchester airport.

These issues are side issues to a feud entirely about personality. Mr Bell, according to Mr Hamilton, is waging a "dishonest" campaign of "character assassination" against him.

"They are fighting the dirtiest campaign I have ever seen in this country. It is all lies," he told a Bell sympathiser in a car park, apparently winning him over.

The fact that the former minister could spend eight minutes pleading his case with the constituent testified to the desperate state of his campaign. His progress through the supermarket, elegantly turned out in tweed jacket and blue rosette, caused barely a flutter of interest. Weariness showed earlier when he appealed almost apologetically to a pensioners' gathering for their vote "in this rather odd election".

One of Mr Hamilton's charges is that the BBC man has refused his invitations to have it out with him in person. "I rang him up to fix a meeting but he never called back."

Mr Bell accuses his adversary of trying to deluge him in lawsuits and refusing the chance to take part in a debate this week.

Mr Hamilton said he declined because it included the eight other candidates, including such local "loonies" as Miss Moneypenny's Glamorous One Party and Lord Byro versus the Scallywag Tories.

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Sophie Solomon, left, and Sophie Harrison check Martin Bell's election materials at his campaign office

Bell: now realises that a political career he expected to last 48 hours may continue for the next five years

Ashdown starts whirlwind tour

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

PADDY Ashdown urged Liberal Democrats to "go for victory" last night as he prepared for a dramatic change of campaign pace that will take him to more than 30 of his party's key seats before polling day (Polly Newton writes). Speaking at a rally in Edinburgh, Mr Ashdown drew inspiration from William Gladstone's Midlothian campaign 118 years ago, and from Liberal Prime Minister David Lloyd George's call to "build a country fit for heroes".

Mr Ashdown said the Liberal Democrats had already won the political arguments during the campaign. "In the next seven days, it is time to win the seats. It is time to go for victory."

Mr Ashdown said it was the 1879 campaign in Midlothian which brought the Liberals back to power for Gladstone's second government. Gladstone left Liverpool for Scotland on November 24, and even before he crossed the border had spoken at several railway stations. Over the next three weeks, he made at least one speech a day, more often two or three. Once he addressed 20,000 people in Edinburgh.

Mr Ashdown told his audience: "Now, as then, the country is faced with a stark choice. Now, as then, it is time for a crusade."

Last night, in a direct appeal to voters, Mr Ashdown explained: "I mean that by sending a massive force of Liberal Democrat MPs to Westminster to fight for our schools and hospitals, it becomes your victory. A victory for your children and grandchildren. A victory for your schools and hospitals."

Mr Ashdown said that people had told him they feared a vote for the Liberal Democrats would be wasted. But, he said, anyone who wanted better health services and improvements to education would waste their vote by backing Labour or the Conservatives.

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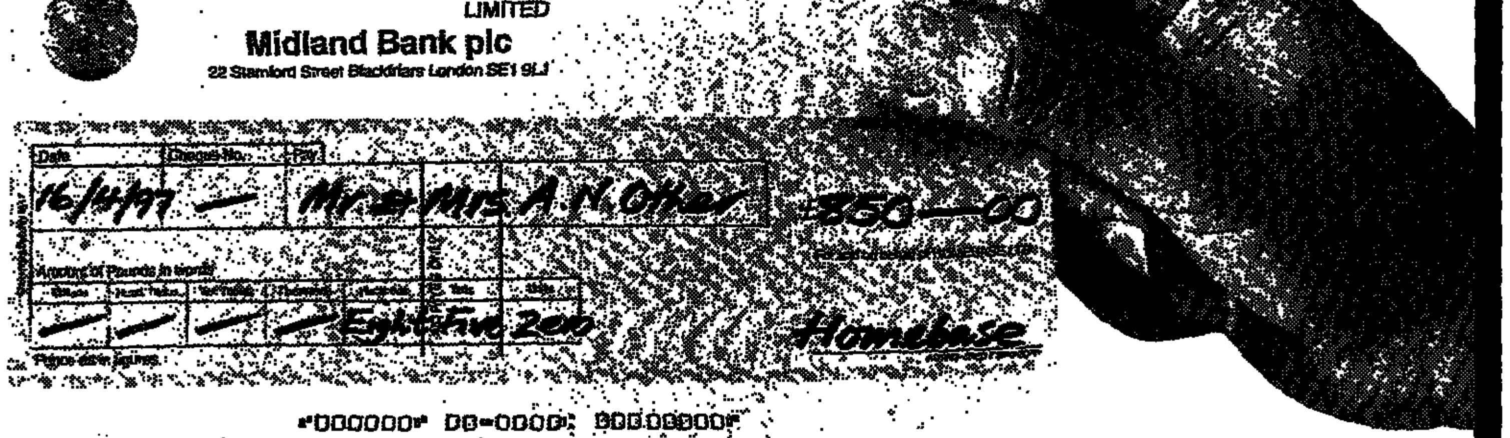

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BALLOT 97
THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

18. *Northern Ireland*

Struggle to solve an all-party problem

Millions of British citizens have had their lives disrupted and headlines have been grabbed during this election campaign because of one unresolved political problem. That problem has, however, scarcely featured in the speeches of potential Prime Ministers and impinged at only the margins of political debate. The problem is Northern Ireland.

Although Labour and the Conservatives go into this election pledged to uphold the majority's wish to remain in the United Kingdom, neither party is seriously trying to secure representation there. The field is left to a variety of parties that exist only in Northern Ireland, and one, Sinn Fein, that organises throughout Ireland. Although all the parties have policies on everything from health to fish farming, the dividing line between them is not left and right, but the border. Unionists want to keep it, and the link with the rest of the UK, nationalists want it to go.

Since the Conservative victory in 1979 the search for a political solution, that is a constitutional dispensation for Northern Ireland which will end the violence, has dominated government policy. As well as trying to design an assembly, the Tories have tried to develop links with Dublin. The notable legacy of this approach was the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985. Although all these initiatives were designed to undermine terrorism by showing that constitutional politics could work, the republican campaign of violence has continued unabated.

The IRA has been fighting a "long war" in which it hoped to "sicken" the British State sufficiently to encourage withdrawal. Throughout the Eighties the IRA increasingly switched to attacking economically significant mainland targets. Bombs such as those at Harrods and that at the Baltic Exchange in the City in 1992 were intended to send tremors through the British establishment and encourage international pressure on the Government to come to an accommodation with republicans.

In the late Eighties, provoked by republican violence, and fearful that their position was undermined by Anglo-Irish initiatives, loyalists within Unionist communities began to intensify their own terror campaign, killing Catholics in republican areas to create an atmosphere of fear and an appetite for peace within those communities. These factors combined in the early Nineties with the coming to power of new Prime Ministers in the Republic of Ireland and in the United Kingdom to create an environment propitious for a new peace initiative.

The diplomatic efforts seemed to have worked when, in August 1994, the IRA declared a ceasefire. Soon after, in October, the loyalists followed suit. Northern Ireland was at peace for the first time in 25 years. It was not to last.

Paramilitary shootings are just one symptom of an illness for which a cure has yet to be found

Indeed, it is difficult to see how it could have lasted. Republicans expected the ceasefire to lead quickly to all-party talks and a timetable for British withdrawal. Loyalists expected the Union's future to be assured. Their expectations were irreconcilable.

When entry to talks was delayed by demands from Unionists that paramilitaries give up weapons before dialogue could begin, republican frustration grew. A commission, set up by US Senator George Mitchell to examine how decommissioning might be reached to the satisfaction of all, suggested using elections to a peace forum as one bypass to talks. Republicans saw this not so much as a route round one obstacle as the erection of another. In February 1996, after 18 months, the IRA ended its ceasefire with a bomb in London's Docklands.

Since then the IRA has been responsible for a series of terrorist attacks, but hand-in-hand with this military strategy Sinn Fein leaders have pursued a political programme, arguing that the more votes the party gets the better placed it is to insist on entry to talks and also influence the IRA to call a ceasefire.

Republicans have said that talks in which they have not been involved have achieved little, and it is true that, despite agreement in some areas between the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists, the attempt to agree a method of government for Northern Ireland acceptable to Unionists and nationalists has become bogged down in procedural detail.

In an effort to break the deadlock Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, suggested earlier this month that another IRA ceasefire could see Sinn Fein in talks by June. She was chided for her words by Tory ministers and left exposed when the IRA appeared to respond by escalating its campaign; but her attempt to entice republicans into laying down their weapons was little different from past offers made by British and Irish ministers.

The tangled history of talks aside, Northern Ireland has, like the rest of the United Kingdom, enjoyed gently rising prosperity over the past 18 years. While violence has been a brake on investment, successive secretaries of state have intervened vigorously to attract and maintain employment.

Northern Ireland's level of unemployment, at about 11 per cent, is above the UK average but not perilously so. During the ceasefire, inward investment reached record levels, with £432 million pledged and 4,689 jobs created. Since then, investment has slowed but not evaporated.

Northern Ireland, partly for security reasons and partly because of Troubles-related poverty, enjoys the highest level of per capita public spending within the UK, approximately one third higher than elsewhere. Housing has been improved, with the number of homes officially unfit for occupation cut by one third. Some of the UK's best social housing is in Northern Ireland and home ownership has risen from 52 to 66 per cent since 1979. Education remains predominantly segregated and selective, entrenching sectarian outlooks but yielding impressive academic results. The hospitals, for tragically obvious reasons, are some of Britain's finest.

Both main British political parties are committed to a joint approach to Northern Ireland. Although they differ on detail, Labour has so far refrained from explicit criticism of the Conservatives. Labour hopes that the Tories will extend it the same leeway if it gains office.

Tests will come early. July will see the high point of the Unionist marching season, the bitterly contested exercise in asserting Unionist identity by ceremonial walks along traditional routes. For the past two years, nationalists in Portadown have objected to a Protestant march through their housing estate. Last year the marchers were penned behind wire for four days before a campaign of wider civil disobedience culminated in them being allowed to march. When it did, nationalist objecters had to be beaten back.

The event was seen, as so many events are in Northern Ireland, to have great symbolic significance — proof that the British State would always bow to Unionist muscle. Others came to a more sombre conclusion: that violence, or the threat of violence, secures concessions in Northern Ireland. As long as that perception continues, then so will the Troubles. Moving away from that dismal vision will be a pressing task for the next government, not just for the people of Northern Ireland who have suffered so much, but also for the health of the entire United Kingdom.

CONSERVATIVES

The Ulster peace process absorbed a great deal of the energy of both the retiring Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and John Major. Painstaking negotiators, they tried to balance offence to Unionist and nationalist sensibilities. The IRA ceasefire brought benefits to Ulster and its collapse, as well as a dwindling majority, has inclined the Tories to a stance slightly more sympathetic to Unionist concerns. A re-elected Tory government would not, however, allow that significantly to impede moves that could secure a credible ceasefire. A Tory opposition might assume an even more Unionist posture.

LABOUR

Labour, under its Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, has moved away from its traditional nationalist stance of Irish "unity by consent" and now supports bipartisan line that Ulster's future should be decided by its people alone and the Government intends only to defend the democratic majority's decision. Labour has been critical of the Government's indulgent approach to Orange marches, and is likely to be more pro-active in anti-discrimination policies. May also show its openness to talks after an IRA ceasefire with gestures to the republican community such as an apology for Bloody Sunday.

SDLP

The Social Democratic and Labour Party is moderately nationalist and led by John Hume. It is dedicated to non-violence and aspires to Irish unity. Will consider an assembly but only in context of cross-border bodies. Refused pact with Sinn Fein to evict Unionist MPs but Hume believes in talks with Gerry Adams to secure IRA ceasefire. SDLP is pro-European and left of centre.

DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST

Ulster's most hardline Unionist party, led by the Rev Ian Paisley. It grew out of a split in Unionism in the Seventies and has its strongest following among urban presbyterians and small farmers. Broadly left-wing and populist on social issues, and fiercely Eurosceptic, the DUP is happy to consider power-sharing within Ulster but consider formal links with Dublin anathema.

SINN FEIN

A republican socialist party that believes in political and armed struggle to replace the regimes in London and Dublin. Its immediate goal is entry to all-party talks without preconditions as a prelude to negotiating the detaching of Ulster from the UK. Sinn Fein MPs would not sit in the Commons but would travel to Westminster to lobby. Broadly Marxist on social and economic issues.

ULSTER UNIONIST

Ulster's largest party, led by David Trimble. Committed to maintaining Ulster's position within the UK but keen to see a form of administrative devolution. Prepared to consider better relations with Dublin in a new Council of the British Isles. Trying hard to appear unsectarian by promoting Catholic members. Conservative on social and economic issues. Solidly Eurosceptic.

UK UNIONIST

A new Unionist party organised around the winner of the 1995 North Down by-election, Robert McCartney. Founded to offer a home for unambiguously pro-Union voters put off by the sectarian associations of the other major parties. Wants to see Ulster better integrated within the UK and elections contested on secular and socio-economic grounds. Left-wing on social and economic issues.

ALLIANCE PARTY

Moderate and non-sectarian party dedicated to power-sharing and dialogue and led by Lord Alderdice. Emerged from split in Unionism in the Seventies. Broadly supports the Union, but believes more must be done to make it acceptable to nationalists. Allied with the Lib Dems, the party takes a centrist position on most soci-economic issues and is enthusiastically pro-European.

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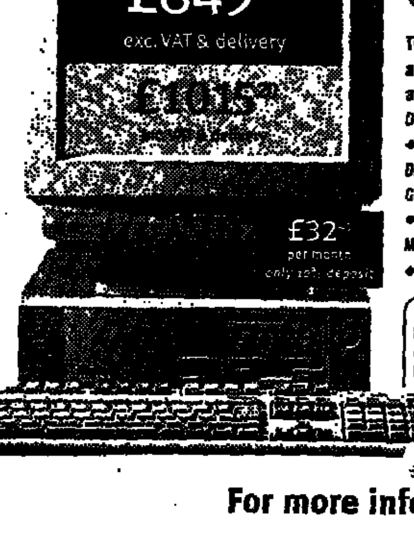

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GREAT MINDS THINK VIGLEN

Scargill has found a rich seam of old Labour sentiment in South Wales, **Valerie Elliott** writes

King Arthur rides south for joust with turncoat

IT IS most unusual to see Arthur Scargill without loudhailer, placard or minders. It is even more unnerving to see him surrounded by grannies, gentle souls and pacifists who seem to make up the vanguard of his personal campaign against Tory-turned-Labour Alan Howarth for Newport East.

The familiar scowl has been replaced by an almost permanent smile. For the astonishing news from the South Wales battlefront is the reception being given to the king of coal. Rumour has it that one of the country's best-known Yorkshiremen is house-hunting in the area.

Even in Caldicot, a desirable commuter town for Bristol, Cardiff or Newport — it won the best kept town in Britain award two years ago and is miles from a coalpit — people were queuing up to shake his hand and to claim a Socialist Labour poster.

There is no doubt with Caldicot behaving in such a remarkable fashion that the gloves are truly off in Newport East between old and new Labour. Traditional Labour voters yesterday seemed to be distinctly unimpressed by the man they refer to as a Tory turncoat. Alan Howarth, former Tory minister, won the selection for the safe Labour seat vacated by Roy Hughes. It is claimed that Mr Hughes was offered a peerage to make way for the new Labour convert.

Tony Blair welcoming Alan Howarth at the House of Commons after his defection from the Tory party

Don Jones, a gas technician, was typical of a stream of shoppers greeting Arthur Scargill yesterday "I have no time for Tory traitors or any traitor." Donna Griffiths said: "We can't vote for the Labour man, he walked the road. If he can do it to the Tories he could do it to us."

Wynford Kerton, a former steelworker, said: "We can't have a Conservative here. You'd know what they would call him in the pit Arthur — a blackleg."

The miners' leader and president of the Socialist Labour Party replied: "That's why I'm wearing red."

His smile was in danger of becoming a rather self-satisfied grin. But even Arthur Scargill was startled by the spontaneous displays of support. Indeed, he was clearly so overwhelmed that he broke an official vow not to speak to *The Times*: "This is exactly the reaction we are getting everywhere. It is pleasantly surprising but I knew feelings would be running high here."

He believes he is on very strong ground in bringing this personal battle to Newport. "If it wasn't for Howarth I wouldn't be here. I have no time for Tory defectors. Leopards never changed their spots. He's still a right-wing Tory. I was arrested twice here in the early Eighties trying to save the steelworks. What was Howarth doing? Voting to get rid of steel jobs here. He's also privatised water and gas and he's in favour of privileged education."

HUW EVANS

Arthur Scargill in Caldicot, South Wales, yesterday during his personal crusade against Mr Howarth

Mr Howarth has lost no time in establishing a base in Newport East, where he is defending a 9,899 Labour majority.

Yesterday Patricia Constant, his secretary, said: "We think it is going very well indeed. As for a debate with Mr Scargill, well, he has not been in touch with our office. We did have a request from the Tory David Evans for one date, but Alan was busy."

Mr Scargill is determined that voters in Newport East will know the record of the official Labour candidate.

Mr Scargill's vitriolic attack on him in yesterday's edition of *Tribune* may be a taste of what is to come. In the article he said: "New Labour has become Thatcherism's last best hope . . . what choice does this leave millions of voters who utterly despise old Conservatives, Howarth included, for their many crimes over the last 18 years?"

Grant: feels like an errant schoolboy

Millbank minders attacked by Grant

By Daniel McGrory

BERNIE GRANT concedes that he feels as though he is being treated like a delinquent schoolboy by the head prefects at Millbank Tower, Labour's election HQ. "They would prefer I stay locked up at home in Tottenham but I tell them to get stuffed." Mr Grant, who is seeking re-election in the north London seat, said.

The minders at Millbank would have had apoplexy had they known that Bernie was meeting one of new Labour's women candidates to canvass at a Hare Krishna temple. "They probably thought I was going to teach her yogic flying," he chuckled.

The Krishna temple at Letchmore Heath was where the Beatles wrote *Sgt. Pepper* and which George Harrison donated to the Hindu community. Mr Grant hummed Beatles songs while he waited for Beth Kelly, the local candidate, and learnt from the monks that they have no truck with what you might expect would be their first choice: the Natural Law Party.

"Too flaky," Bimal Krishna Das, secretary of the temple, said. "We are like most other communities who are concerned about who will fund our schools." Mr Grant had supported the temple when locals derided it as a hippy drugs den that was blighting their property and engaged the religious community in a ten-year planning dispute.

Over lunch, Mr Grant promised funding for their school and help to reclaim Hindu art "looted by British museums". The lady from new Labour gulped, worried that her spell in the Blair sect might be over before it begins.

IN BRIEF

Gun lobby says don't vote Tory

Campaigners for a ban on the possession of handguns have urged the public not to vote Conservative. The Gun Control Network said that the Tories had the worst record on opposing a handgun ban and that only 6 per cent of their candidates had responded to a questionnaire on tighter firearms laws, compared with 30 per cent for Labour and Liberal Democrats, and 55 per cent of SNP and Plaid Cymru candidates.

It found that 29 per cent of Tories who responded supported a total ban, compared with 100 per cent of SNP, 97 per cent Labour, 93 per cent Plaid Cymru, and 86 per cent Liberal Democrats.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said later that the Tories had given the country some of the toughest gun laws in the world.

Changing sides

The daughter of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Tory Prime Minister 1963-64, has disclosed that she intends to vote Liberal Democrat. Lady Meriel Darby, 57, has been a lifelong Tory supporter but has decided to switch sides since her father's death 18 months ago. She said that Lib Dem policies on the environment had won her vote.

65-seat victory

A 65-seat majority for Labour has been predicted by Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher of the Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre at Plymouth University. Their forecast is based on a survey of 20,000 votes cast in 12 local government by-elections since March 17, when John Major asked for a dissolution of Parliament.

Lamont apology

Norman Lamont accepted a public apology over a report in *The Yorkshire Evening Press* that he was one of a number of MPs accused of taking "cash sweeteners". Mr Lamont, the Conservative candidate for Harrogate, also received an apology at the High Court from Harrogate Liberal Democrats, who used the story in a leaflet.

Action men

The manufacturers of Action Man have dressed the dolls to look like the leaders of the political parties. Two models of each doll have been made and will be auctioned as a set for charity. Apart from the three main party leaders there are versions of Screaming Lord Sutch and Sir James Goldsmith, and a Sindy doll Cherie Blair.

ELECTION TRAIL

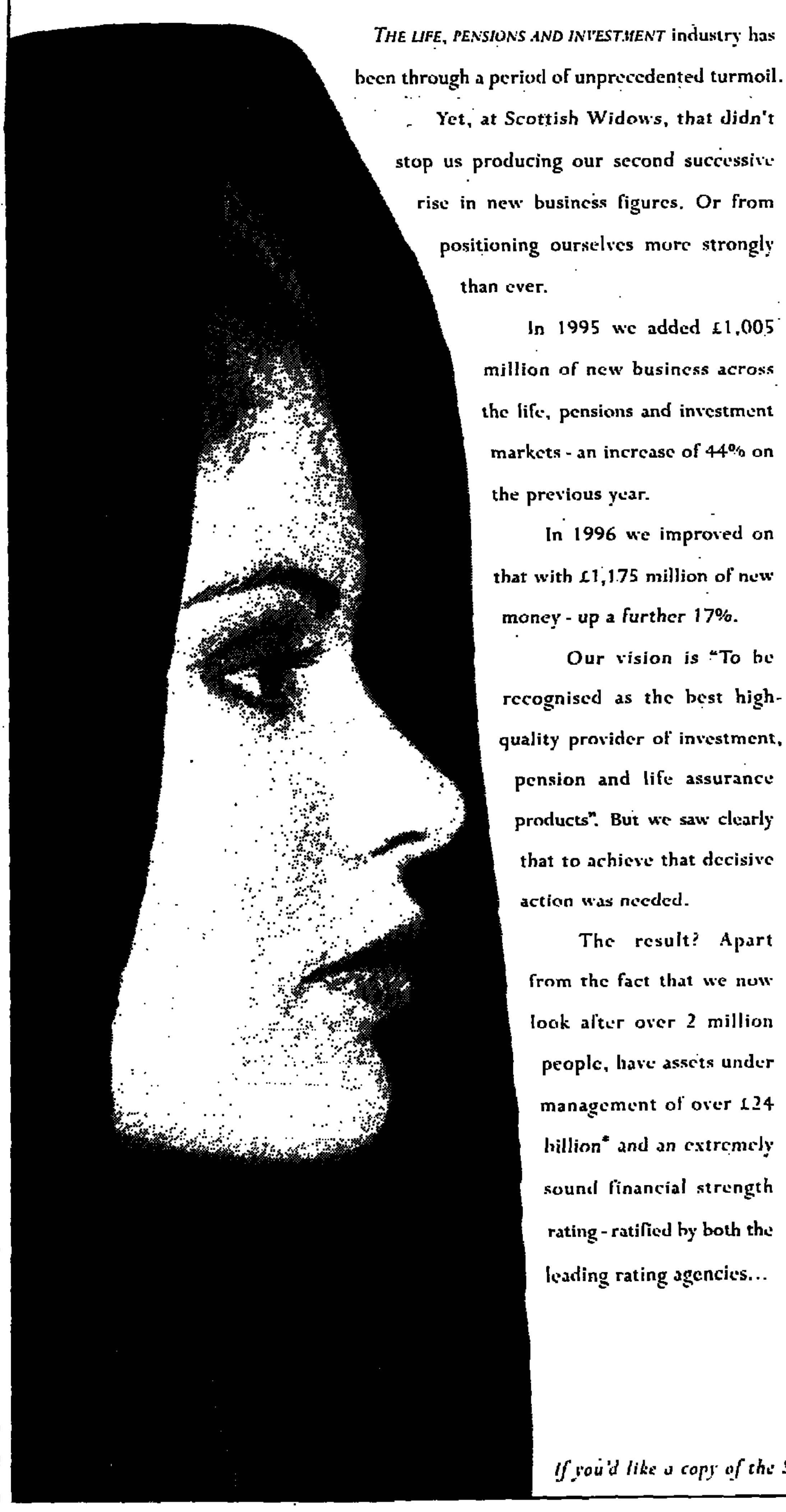
Conservatives: Gillian Shephard, Peter Lilley in the West; Ian Lang, Kenneth Clarke in Scotland, Virginia Bottomley in the South, Stephen Dorrell, Michael Heseltine in the Midlands, Michael Portillo in the East, William Hague in Wales.

Labour: Jack Straw in Birmingham, John Prescott in Scotland, Barbara Roche in the North, Chris Smith, Donald Dewar in the North West, Gavin Strang in Wales, Margaret Beckett, Robin Cook in the South East. Harriet Harman, Glenda Jackson in the east Midlands, Frank Dobson in London.

Liberal Democrats: Paddy Ashdown in the South West.

Referendum Party: Sir James Goldsmith in Maidstone.

On screen
Election broadcasts: Tory Party: ITV 6.55pm, BBC1 9.50pm, BBC2 10.30pm, C4 11.05pm; British National Party: C5 5.25pm, BBC1 6.55pm, BBC2 11.30pm, C4 12.10am.



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Mayhew is in the height of good humour

Life is sweet for Sir Patrick. Soon to shed the cares of office, the Northern Ireland Secretary was full of fizz on a visit to a sherbet factory, writes **Damian Whitworth**

WHOEVER wins the election something of the stature of the House of Commons will be diminished. The decision of Sir Patrick Mayhew to retire deprives the lower house of one of its tallest members. The Upper House meanwhile will gain a 6ft 4in joker.

The Northern Ireland Secretary is learning to enjoy himself again. Too often the cares of office have been seen to weigh heavily on his ursine frame. And in public Sir Patrick, who is descended from an aristocratic Anglo-Irish Protestant family on his mother's side and also claims a connection with Edmund Burke, appeared lofty in manner as well as size. His harshest critics have described him as pompous, a bit of a stuffed shirt.

Now with the end in sight, for both his career in high office and for the dwindling band of patrician politicians among whom he and Douglas Hurd have been preeminent, he is liberated. Yesterday on a visit to a sweet factory he was a hoot.

Sir Patrick was in Colchester to help out the Tory candidate, an earnest chap called Stephan Shakespeare who got rather petulant when photographers asked him to get out of shot. Sir Patrick went to change into the regulation white coat and cap. He emerged looking like a polar bear bursting out of his skin and surveyed the similarly clad journalists and senior sweet makers. "Mountain trips with the Finnish army," he declared and shambled ahead into the factory.

The factory's chief business is manufacturing various types of mint and the air was thick with the smell of menthol. "Apparently very few people get colds in here," observed Sir Patrick. Then appropos nothing: "Why are you all of average height?" No one knew what to say.

"I went round the Fisherman's Friends factory in Blackpool the other day," he continued. "They really do clean the system out."

Sir Patrick, 67, took delight in everything. "Oooh! Look at these," he said as his eye alighted on little lollipops spinning round on a roundabout and whizzing off down chutes. He was like a naughty schoolboy who had just broken up for the summer hols. One half-expected him to start cramming treats into his pockets as soon as he thought no one was looking.

He had a little difficulty biting the end off a Sherbert Fountain. "Oooh! I haven't had these since I was ten. They seem to be chewier now." A bit of wrapper stuck to his chin. A senior sweetie-maker offered to divest him of the Sherbert Fountain but Sir Patrick was having none of it. "No, I'll hold onto this, thank you," he said, and kept it for the rest of the tour.

But under interrogation the truth came out. Was he a sweetie man? "Not really," he whispered, smirking as if had put a mouse in the teacher's drawer. What about chocolate? "Oh yes, I do enjoy a bit of chocolate."

He found a fragile-looking seat and sat down, causing it to creak alarmingly. "Do you think I'll break it," he asked, bumping heavily up and down. "I am really enjoying electioneering. It is a welcome change from Northern Ireland and the more sedate things I have to do. But you have to be something of an exhibitionist. Montgomery said that in order to be a good general you have to be a bit of a cad. I am a bit of a cad."

Because he no longer has a constituency to defend Sir Patrick has dedicated himself to a hectic schedule of campaigning all over the country. But he has popped in to help Archie Norman, the boss of Asda who is the Tory candidate hoping to fill his shoes in Tunbridge Wells.

"I have a bit of patter I use on the doosteps. I said, 'I am campaigning for my friend Archie Norman, I have great hopes that he will be better than his predecessor.' One woman just said, 'I should hope so, too' and marched on grimly leaving me glaring after her. My wife said it served me right."

ROBIN MAYES

Sound bite: the Northern Ireland Secretary takes on a sherbet fountain and wins. "I haven't had these since I was ten. They seem to be chewier now," he explained

Europhile blossoms amid laburnums and cherries

David Curry is everything the new breed of Brussels-baiting bovver-boy Tory Englanders hate. But **Matthew Parris** came away impressed

AFTER a diet of television soaps, it comes as a shock to discover that parts of Yorkshire really are *Last Of The Summer Wine* country. Nidderdale, in the constituency of Skipton & Ripon, is like *Emmerdale*, without the lesbians. I was with the Tory candidate, former Agriculture Minister, now Environment Minister, and unrepentant pro-European, David Curry. He spells his surname with a "y", and has a T-shirt saying "no relation".

It comes as a shock, too, to discover just how Tory Tory Yorkshire is. Mr Curry's majority hovers around 19,000 "Mine is one of England's biggest constituencies, some 70 miles long," he told me. "At one end, I meet William Hague on a moor in the middle of a flock of sheep. At the other, I meet Norman Lamont, on the edge of Harrogate, among the laburnums and flowering cherries."

Neither the laburnums, the flowering cherries, the sheep, nor, it seemed, the voters, were displaying much interest in new Labour. Once you left the city of York, everyone seemed rock-solid Conservative, with the exception of one Labour lady — a persecuted minority under siege in a tree nursery, protesting: "I'm fairly red — but very green."

Only a smattering of Liberal Democrat posters, and a letter Mr Curry showed me from a constituent, sounded any note of rebellion. The letter read: "Dear Mr Curry, I have always voted Conservative, but never again. In the old days we knew what Conservatives stood for: the rich to get richer, and the poor to get poorer. But not any longer . . ." Mr Curry had proposed: "Meet me at The Greyhound in Killinghall, just after Norman Lamont's posters stop and mine begin. You can't miss his posters. The colour has run. In mine, it hasn't." He was right. Mr Lamont's posters are magenta on purple, and at the edge of his Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency boundary stands a huge sign: "NORMAN LAMONT SAYS KEEP THE POUND". Mr Curry's posters are blue with a hint of orange.

He is everything our new breed of Brussels-baiting bovver-boy Tory Englanders hate. His wife is French, and a sculptress. His chairman has a Dutch accent. He drives a Volvo. "My carrots are Early Nantes. My strawberries are Elséve," he says to me in the Daleside Nurseries. "We're going straight to France after the election, for a holiday." Mr Curry then held forth to the Daleside proprietor on the single currency, while I took notes. "Write, 'nurseries'," said the proprietor to me, "not 'garden centre'. We don't have a coffee shop or anything silly like that, here."

Mr Curry told me: "Some people around here believe the US Air Force base at Menwith used to store submarines." His constituency is land-locked. "There seem to be logistical problems. Were war to be declared, the River Nidd would need to be in full spate."

He asked the nursery's proprietor whether there was anything they needed. "Rain."

"Well, given the state of the polls, I promise you rain," said Mr Curry. And we moved on to Farmhouse Preserves, where Mr Curry was presented with a jar of lemon curd and a warm promise of support. Then off to Fringill Farm Foods where Mr Curry heard grumbles about BSE. He nodded in sympathy. "Good Charrolais was struggling to get 118 at Ripon yesterday."

"Oh," said the fellow, impressed. "I see you know about these things." Never in my life have I heard anyone in farming concede that a politician knew about these things. I, too, was impressed. If Mr Curry remains as impressive on agriculture, his hold on this tiny semi-autonomous haven of pro-Europeanism will remain unchallenged.

As we drove off, it began to rain. Another vote for Mr Curry at Daleside Nurseries.

MICHEL POWELL

David Curry at Daleside Nurseries in Killinghall: "My strawberries are Elséve"

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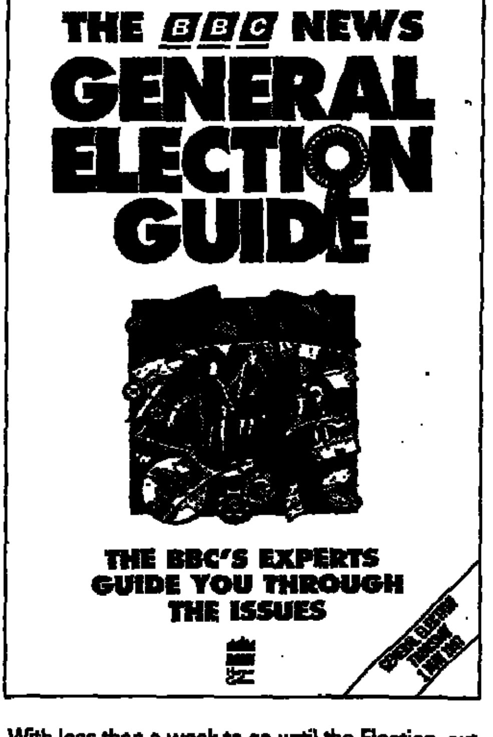

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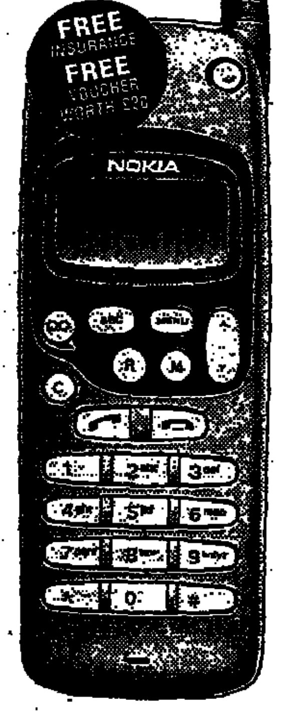

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Russians have a bone to pick over dinosaur remains in Britain

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

THE normally respectable world of palaeontology has been split by a dispute between Russian and British scientists for custody of a unique collection of Jurassic-era dinosaur remains.

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute yesterday accused Bristol University of borrowing nine samples of pterosaurus flying reptiles, and refusing to return them to their Russian owners.

The row, which has echoes of a similar dispute in America over a collection of tsarist treasures now in Washington, has led to accusations on both sides that scientists want to use the valuable dinosaur remains for financial profit.

Igor Novikov, the deputy director of the institute, said that the collection was loaned to Bristol in 1993 under a one-year study arrangement that was extended by another year. "At the end of this period we requested that the collection be returned to its home in Moscow, but Bristol has repeatedly ignored our numerous requests," he said. "It has become increasingly clear that the university wants to hold on to the collection as long as possible to maintain its funding from public and private grants."

But Don Carleton, the Bristol University spokesman, dismissed the allegations as nonsense. He said that the pterosaurus specimens were borrowed from Moscow under a collaborative project sponsored by the Royal Society and with the co-operation of the Russians.

"We did borrow the specimens for scientific research in collaboration with the Russians, whose scientists are here in Bristol working on this project as I speak," he said. "The work has been extended but we expect it to be completed within a year. When the research is finished, everything will be returned to Russia."

Dr David Unwin, a Royal Society research fellow who set up the collaborative Anglo-Russian project, insisted that the agreement with Moscow was "open-ended", but hinted that the collection would be far better off remaining outside Russia for the time being.

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute, once a prestigious part of the Soviet scientific establishment, has been hit by Russia's economic turmoils and valuable dinosaur remains have been stolen and sold on the black market. Three years ago, a 245-million-year-old dinosaur skull was stolen from the museum, sold to a German fossil collector for £550 and resurfaced in the State Museum for Natural History in Stuttgart. It was returned to Moscow after Interpol traced its whereabouts. The collection in Bristol is particularly rare because few of the delicate bones of flying reptiles have been recovered intact.

Dr Unwin, who spent two years working in Moscow at the institute, said that the Stuttgart case was not isolated. He maintained that the illicit traffic in dinosaur fossils was still going on and that he has traced missing exhibits to collectors in Japan.

"They [the directors] make their money by selling their collections to rather nefarious individuals," Dr Unwin told the *Moscow Times*. "For the last few years a very dirty trade has been going on, with the directors of the institute selling the museum's collections to fossil collectors."

Mr Novikov said that he was "deeply insulted" by the allegations. "Like any museum we have problems of funding and theft. When items go missing we report them to the police, and in one case the stolen property was returned."

For the time being, the institute in Moscow is not considering legal action to get its property back but will continue to appeal to the authorities in Bristol to return the collection.

Ex-Soviet states and China sign deal on frontier troop cuts

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Presidents of Russia, China and the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed an agreement in Moscow yesterday to limit troop levels in their border regions.

The deal is designed to create a zone of stability along the 4,500-mile former Sino-Soviet frontier. It marks a significant improvement in relations between China and its neighbours since the break-up of the Soviet Union brought an end to the rivalries between the world's biggest communist powers. Rapprochement between Moscow and Beijing was already under way in the perestroika era of Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s, after a period of hostility that came to a head with border clashes in 1969.

At the signing ceremony in the Kremlin, after talks with President Jiang Zemin of China, President Yeltsin said that the agreement would boost mutual confidence between the five countries and he expressed the hope that other countries in the Asia-Pacific region would follow its example. The ceremony was also attended by President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, and President Rakhmonov of Tajikistan.

The agreement sets a strict limit on the number of ground troops, tactical air force and anti-aircraft personnel deployed by all the countries concerned in a 60-mile zone either side of China's border with the former Soviet republics. But it does not cover strategic air defence or rocket forces.

According to Russian defence sources, the accord provides for Russia and the Central Asian republics to keep 3,900 tanks in the border zone, all but 100 of these being provided by Russia. China would also be allowed the same number.

But the sources, quoted by Interfax news agency, said that the agreement would not involve troop withdrawals on the Russian side, as the permitted numbers already exceeded the forces deployed in the region. China was also already well within the new quotas.

The agreement is seen as part of Moscow's efforts to forge closer links with its Asian neighbours to provide a counter-balance to Nato's expansion into Eastern Europe. But Russian and Chinese officials have emphasised that neither country is looking to rebuild the close Sino-Soviet alliance of the 1950s.

In a separate development, Mr Yeltsin yesterday appealed to young Russians to take a more active role in the country's political life. In his weekly radio address to the nation, the President took Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, to task for failing to bring more young people into the Government and use their energy and ideas. "We are simply afraid of promoting the young. Yes we are, Viktor Stepanovich. But don't worry: they are not trying to step into your shoes," he said.

President Yeltsin reminded his listeners that he was 66 and hoped to hand over to a younger person when he stepped down at the end of his term in three years' time.

One candidate widely tipped for the succession is Boris Nemtsov, the 37-year-old former Governor of Nizhny Novgorod, who was promoted by Mr Yeltsin to First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle last month. Yesterdsay he increased Mr Nemtsov's powers by appointing him Fuel and Energy Minister in addition to his other posts.

☐ **Aide move:** Russia formally applied yesterday to Polish authorities for the extradition of a former adviser to President Yeltsin wanted on suspicion of corruption. Sergei Stankevich, a former Deputy Mayor of Moscow, was arrested in Warsaw last week during routine traffic control.

Mr Stankevich, who allegedly pocketed £6 million in 1992 for authorising a classical concert and ballet in Red Square, fled to America in 1995. It was not clear what he was doing in Warsaw. Poland and Russia have a convention on judicial assistance. *(AFP)*

AP

Presidents Akayev, left, Nazarbayev, Jiang Zemin, Yeltsin and Rakhmonov at the Kremlin yesterday

Kremlin spies break Cold War record

Frankfurt: There are more Russian spies operating in Germany now than during the Cold War, according to a government report unveiled in Bonn last night (Deborah Collcutt writes).

Germany attracts more agents than any other European country and experts estimate that the actual number of Russian moles "probably stretches into the thousands", said a senior counter-intelligence officer.

In a report by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, secret service officers concluded that Moscow's spies were operating more openly than ever before but their targets had changed since the fall of communism. "Before they were mainly engaged in observing and monitoring military developments, now they are interested in German telecommunication technology and in the computers we use," said a spokesman.

"The spies are required to deliver both files and information so that their country can keep abreast of all the latest technological advances in the West." Further fields of interest are Nato's expansion to the east, Bonn's Eastern bloc policy and the Middle East peace process.

According to the report, President Yeltsin is said to have personally ordered the extra deployment of spies to Germany and other West European countries, though this has been strongly denied by Moscow. The report claims that Moscow is now at the centre of the spying operation and all agents are recruited, rigorously trained, dispatched and monitored from there. German intelligence officers believe that personal contact is kept to a minimum and the moles receive their information and orders via coded short-wave radio messages. Highly sensitive material, money and support information are delivered to disguised hiding places.

The intelligence service has established that ethnic Germans living in Russia and high-ranking former KGB staff are favoured for operations in Germany. It has also identified a rise in the number of relatives of staff on Moscow's secret service team working at the Russian Embassy in Bonn and holding diplomatic posts here. Spies are infiltrating industry in the guise of trainees and managers in German businesses.

Protests as Serbs jail Bosnian Muslims

FROM REUTER
IN SARAJEVO

A BOSNIAN SERB court jailed seven Bosnian Muslims yesterday after a murder trial which the international community labelled a "travesty" and a "farce".

Despite international criticism, the court in Zvornik imposed 20-year jail terms on three men accused of murdering four Serbs and sentenced the other four to one year each for illegal possession of firearms.

The court denied the defendants the right to be represented by lawyers from the Muslim-Croat Federation and appointed Serb lawyers who had just five minutes to present their defence. The court stopped short of passing death penalties the prosecution had demanded.

The Muslims claimed to be survivors of wartime massacres in the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. The trial failed to produce conclusive evidence that the seven were guilty of the crimes they were charged with, a UN spokesman said.

☐ Zagreb: A Croatian court found General Momcilo Perisic, the Yugoslav Army's Chief of Staff, guilty of war crimes yesterday for shelling a Croatian town in 1991 and sentenced him in absentia to 20 years' prison.

The general was one of 19 army officers tried in absentia this week. Five other ex-officers were given 20 years in prison. The rest were given terms ranging from ten to 14 years. They were accused of shelling the coastal town of Zadar in 1991. *(AFP)*

Prison for anti-Jewish skinheads

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FOUR skinheads were yesterday imprisoned after being found guilty of desecrating tombs at a Jewish cemetery in southern France. Olivier Fimbry, 29, and Patrick Laonegro, 31, were jailed for two years, and Bertrand Nouveau, 29, and Yannick Garnier, 27, for 20 months.

The judgment in Marseilles closed one of the most highly charged affairs in recent French history. It has given rise to seven years of outrage, demonstrations and political intrigue.

When the Jewish community in Carpentras found the body of Félix Germon exhumed and 34 other tombs damaged at its local cemetery in May 1990, France reacted with horror.

The ghost of the Vichy regime, which collaborated with the Nazis during the Second World War, hung over the country. The late President Mitterrand led several thousand on a protest march targeted at the extreme-right National Front.

Although two years is the maximum sentence for desecration under French law, members of the Jewish community were last night angry at the punishment given to the four defendants, saying it is a light sentence for one of the most shocking French crimes this decade.

Businessmen attack German parties for tax talks deadlock

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

THE leaders of the German Government and Opposition have been bitterly criticised by industrialists and economists for the collapse of cross-party talks on reforms to the complex tax system which may have to be delayed for a year.

The Christian Democrat and Free Democrat coalition and the opposition Social Democrats were accused of jeopardising economic recovery by political intransigence. The failure to reach agreement has prompted analysts to question Bonn's ability to contain borrowing to qualify for the start of economic and monetary union in 1999.

President Herzog made a rare political intervention yesterday and appealed to the politicians to help to reduce unemployment, currently at a postwar record 4.48 million.

Herzog: appealed for cut in unemployment

"We must act now instead of just talking," he said, after the talks on a plan by Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, to cut £11.5 billion in taxes.

The Chambers of Industry and Commerce called the breakdown in talks "a shock for the investment economy" and the daily business newspaper *Handeslblatt* said: "The goings-on in Bonn will frighten off all foreign investors: it is proof again of the country's inability to reform itself." Dieter Vesper, of a leading German economic institute, said it was "poison for the economy" and cast doubt on the Government's ability to meet its 1997 growth forecast of 2.5 per cent.

☐ **Rome:** Italy was yesterday smarting from a blow to its national pride after the European Commission's assessment that the Italian economy will fail to meet the criteria for membership of the single currency in 1999 (Richard Owen writes).

La Repubblica spoke of a "slap in the face by Europe". It said Brussels clearly did not have faith in the efforts of the centre-left Government to cut the budget deficit since it took office nearly a year ago.

Letters, page 21

Vatican's blessing on 'no sex' gays

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

HOMOSEXUALS can be good Roman Catholics and even candidates for sainthood, provided they repent and opt for "friendship" rather than engaging in sex, according to the Vatican.

The statement, which marks a softening in the Vatican line, came in an article by Jean Louis Brugues, a leading theologian, in *l'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper. "In the Vatican's terms this is an overture to lesbians and gays," said *La Repubblica*.

"It amounts to saying that, if they repent, refrain from making love, mortify the temptations of the flesh and pray, contrite homosexuals will after all be gathered into the Kingdom of Heaven."

Vatican officials said homosexuality was still regarded by the hierarchy as a "disorder". But despite the conservative views of the Pope, there are signs of a liberal wind blowing. Last month a new Vatican handbook for priests said couples who admitted in the confessional they had used contraceptives should be treated with "mercy, discretion and respect".

Arcigay, the Italian gay and lesbian organisation, said the Vatican letter had little to offer and assumed that all homosexuals were promiscuous. Francesco Grillini, its leader, said it was "cruel to deny gays the right to love and be loved".

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McVeigh 'wanted to see blood on streets of US'

The prosecution hopes that presenting *lurid details of the Oklahoma bombing* will compensate for the gaps in its case, **Tom Rhodes** reports from Denver

TIMOTHY McVEIGH blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City to show his hatred for the Government and see "blood flow on the streets of America", a Denver jury heard yesterday.

In his opening statement, Joseph Hartzler, the chief prosecution lawyer, said: "The truck was there to impose the will of Timothy McVeigh on the rest of America and to do so . . . by murdering innocent men, women and children in hopes of seeing blood flow on the streets of America . . . they were in a building owned by a government that Timothy McVeigh so hated that with premeditated intent . . . he chose to take their innocent lives."

Mr Hartzler said he would later produce evidence that would enable the jury to "know the twisted motive behind this deadly offence".

The opening arguments in the trial of Mr McVeigh, 29, accused of the worst terrorist attack in American history, were to be followed by videotape of the explosion at 9.02am on April 19, 1995. Testimony by prosecution witnesses yesterday was expected to give detailed descriptions of injuries to more than 500 people sprayed by debris and postmortem examinations carried out on the 168 dead, including 19 children.

Earlier, survivors and relatives of the dead were warned that testimony would include the most graphic and chilling evidence of the crime. Pressure on the prosecution to obtain the conviction of Mr McVeigh and Terry Nichols, 42, to be tried later, has mounted since the start of jury selection this month.

McVeigh: withdrew to murky world of militias

With a jury finally in place and evidence ready for presentation yesterday, opinion polls suggest that at least 83 per cent of Americans believe Mr McVeigh is guilty. But the burden on the prosecution has grown heavier by the day.

Months ago, the Government decided it had no witness who could place Mr McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day of the bombing. Many local people say they saw more than one person and more than one yellow rental van, the vehicle used to transport 2,000lb of fertiliser to the site.

Last week, the Justice Department released a damning report about the FBI forensic laboratory which specifically criticised work done at the bombed Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma. The strategy of the Government is therefore to shock the jury with the weight of the crime before focusing on Mr McVeigh's motives.

Disaffected with the United States Army after the Gulf War and his failure to join the elite Green Berets, he withdrew into the murky world of militias and guns in Michigan and Arizona. Prosecution lawyers will claim that the bombing was in retaliation for the 50 adults and 25 children killed on the final day of the standoff between government agents and the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas, two years to the day before the Oklahoma bombing.

They are also expected to allege that the attack was modelled on a fictional incident described in a white supremacist novel, *The Turner Diaries*, a book Mr McVeigh allegedly sold at gun shows and a copy of which was found in his car when he was arrested outside Oklahoma City 90 minutes after the explosion.

It is believed that Jennifer McVeigh, the defendant's sister, will testify that her brother saw the book as a means of retaliation against the Government after Waco. In the coming weeks, Mr Hartzler and his team will also present the testimony of some 20,000 witnesses, the FBI studies of 500 hours of videotape and the conclusion of a 22-month investigation.

The physical evidence against Mr McVeigh, including explosive residue found on his clothes and fingerprints discovered on a receipt for the purchase of forty 50lb bags of ammonium nitrate fertiliser, appears overwhelming.

Coupled with the testimony of Michael Fortier, an army colleague who claims he "cased the joint" with Mr McVeigh in late 1994, and the publication of numerous alleged confessions by the defendant, the prosecution is hoping to defy defence allegations of a wider conspiracy and forensic incompetence by the FBI. Linda Jones, a British forensic and explosives expert who has worked on numerous IRA bombings, is expected to provide a critical independent analysis of the FBI data to prove its validity.

But the case for the prosecution cannot rest easily. The Government is seeking the death penalty against Mr McVeigh for the murders of four Secret Service Agents: a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and two Customs Service agents.

In recent months, Stephen Jones, the chief defence lawyer, has woven an intricate tapestry of conspiracy around the case, alleging the involvement of the IRA, the Iraqi Government and two white supremacists, Andreas Strassmeir, a German, and Dennis Mahon, former leader of the White Aryan Resistance. Mr Jones will claim that Mr McVeigh was only tangentially associated with the crime, if at all.

Judge in cowboy boots will keep tight rein on his court

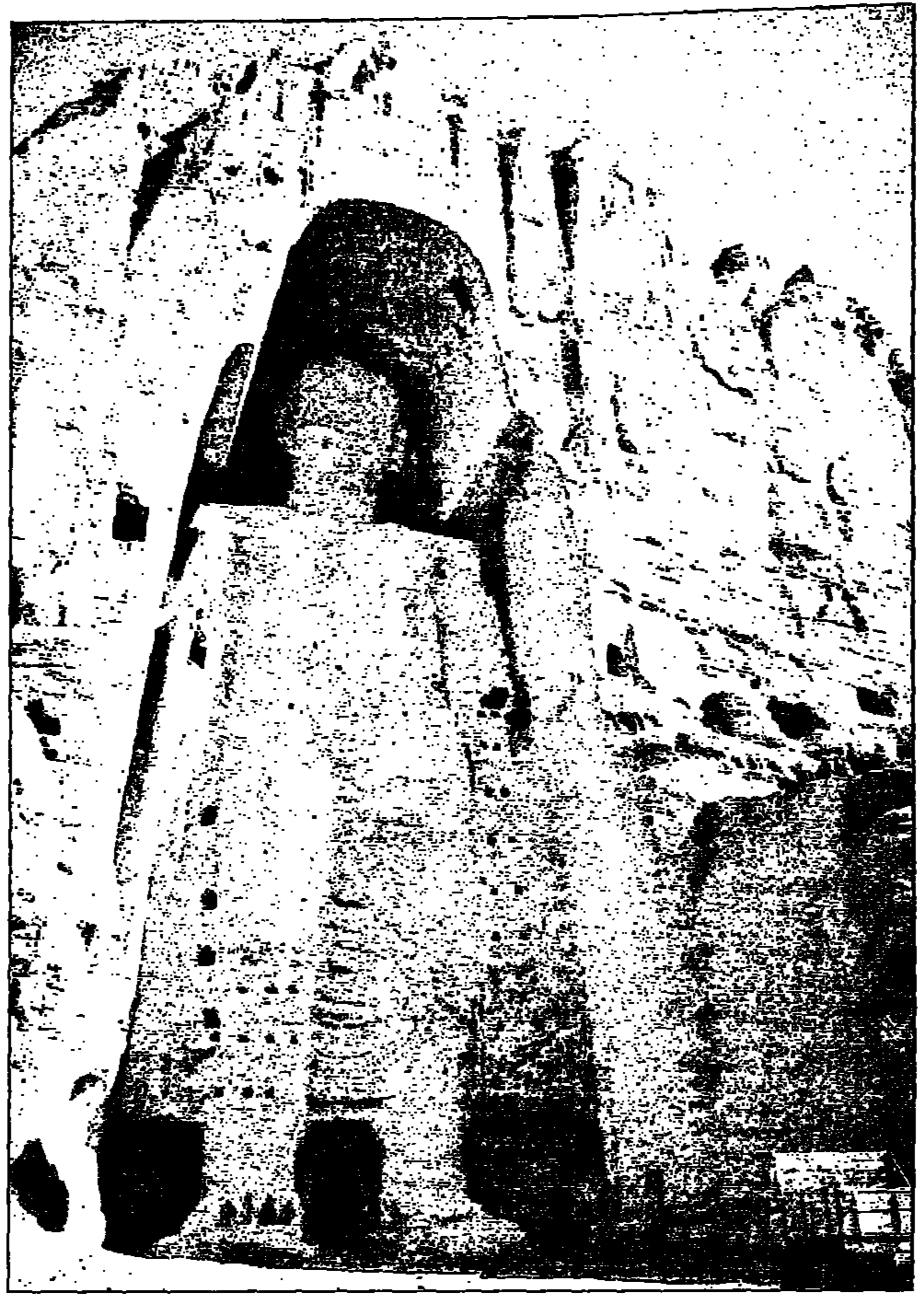
MAN IN THE NEWS

Matsch: tyrannical

Denver: He sees himself as a hybrid of Napoleon and General Patton and has made it clear who will be the master of his Denver courtroom throughout the trials of those accused in America's worst act of terrorism (Tom Rhodes writes). Judge Richard Matsch, however, is also considered one of the best trial lawyers in the United States.

This tough but traditional Western lawman yesterday took centre stage in the trial of Timothy McVeigh. A diminutive figure with bushy moustache peeping from his pallid face, Mr Matsch, 67, has made no secret of his intent since he first stalked into the wood-panelled court robed and wearing the cowboy boots that have become a personal trademark. He removed the Seal of the United States and all other symbols of government that might offer echoes of the Alfred Murrah building, devastated on April 19, 1995. He is one of only 13 out of 800 judges in America described as "tyrannical" in the *Almanac of the Federal Judiciary*.

AP



The 1,600-year-old carving of Buddha, which Afghan hardliners want to destroy

Buddhists condemn Taleban over threat to blow up statue

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

THE Buddhist world is outraged at a threat by Taleban, the extremist Islamic militia in Afghanistan, to blow up a colossal 1,600-year-old statue of the Buddha carved out of a sandstone cliff on the ancient Silk Route.

The statue, Afghanistan's greatest archaeological treasure, is protected by a rival Shia Muslim faction that controls the site in the Bamiyan Valley, at the heart of the Hindu Kush mountains in central Afghanistan. A Taleban commander said that if he captured the area he would destroy the 180ft monument, the world's tallest carving of the Buddha in a standing pose. Another smaller statue of the Buddha, carved about the same time, is also threatened.

The carvings were a tourist and pilgrimage site before the start of civil war in the 1970s. Chinese pilgrims reported as late as the 8th century an "abundance" of priests and temples in the Bamiyan Valley, before Islam became the dominant faith. The Bamiyan site was constructed by missionaries and pilgrims during a revival of Buddhism in India in the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Sri Lanka said destruction of the site would be a "treacherous act" from which the entire Buddhist world would suffer. The state-owned *Daily News* quoted Lakshman Jayakody, the Cultural and Religious Affairs Minister, as saying: "I hope sanity will prevail." Hindu organisations in India have also expressed shock.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cult leader 'tried to halt gas attack'

Tokyo: The trial of Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo cult, veered into farce yesterday when he gave evidence in broken English and rambled about the outbreak of the Third World War (Robert Whymant writes).

Mr Asahara said that he tried to talk two disciples out of staging the sarin attack on the Tokyo underground on March 20, 1995, in which 12 people died.

Algerians killed

Paris: Muslim terrorists hacked to death 42 people, including 17 women and three babies, this week in the latest of a series of massacres in the village of Omaria, south of Algiers.

Sofia choice

Sofia: The anti-Communist coalition that triumphed in last week's election named its leader, Ivan Kostov, to be Prime Minister and to tackle Bulgaria's chronic economic and crime problems. *(AP)*

Transplant hope

Tokyo: The lower house of parliament passed a Bill that will let heart patients receive transplants. Until now, the only hope for people suffering potentially fatal conditions has been to go abroad. *(AP)*

Strikers injured

Lille: Four Renault workers were injured when strikers from the doomed Vilvoorde plant in Belgium clashed with police here. About 300 workers had come to see to Pierre Mauroy, the Mayor. *(Reuter)*

Belgian quizzed

Brussels: Belgian police were questioning a man over a series of murders in which the severed remains of up to six women, wrapped in bin bags, were found scattered in the southern city of Mons.

SS charges kept

Rome: A court refused a request by the city's Jews for charges against Erich Priebke, the former SS officer, to be changed to genocide over the massacre in 1944 of 335 civilians. *(AP)*

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

WALKING BACK TO HAPPINESS

BUT WILL IT BE EASY STREET OR DOWNING STREET?

READ LESLEY WHITE'S IN-DEPTH PROFILE OF JOHN MAJOR IN THE MAGAZINE THIS WEEKEND

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Rogue states 'see cruise missile as weapon of choice'

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent, and Ian Brodie in Washington

CRUISE missiles could become the favourite weapon of rogue states, creating a "major security challenge" for the West, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, an authoritative London-based body, said yesterday.

It added that acquiring ballistic missiles was more difficult for developing countries because of strict international missile technology controls. The West was also devoting considerable resources to defending against the ballistic missile threat.

But, the institute said, land-attack cruise missiles were easier to develop and were not covered by the restrictions on the export of ballistic missile systems under the Missile Technology Control Regime established in 1987.

In its annual *Strategic Survey*, the institute said that only a dozen countries had land-attack cruise missiles approaching the quality of the American Tomahawk, because tight controls had prevented the spread of the highly accurate guidance equipment they previously required.

However, the report continued, "a stark new reality is changing the missile proliferation challenge: military breakthroughs are increasingly resulting from commercial rather than secret military research". New commercial technologies included cheap guidance devices based on the US satellite global-positioning system. The report said: "New guidance and navigation technology for cruise missiles offers substantially more accurate delivery and costs substantially less than far more complex, export-controlled, ballistic missile guidance systems."

Helms: chemical treaty would be "ineffective"

Cruise missiles were also a "better platform for effective dispersal of chemical and biological agents". The killing area for a biological agent delivered by cruise missile could be "at least ten times greater than that delivered by a ballistic missile".

In Washington yesterday, Bob Dole unexpectedly joined President Clinton in his fight for Senate approval of a global treaty banning the use of poison gas. He had until last year single-handedly blocked the treaty. He was at the time still leader of the Senate Republicans and preparing to challenge Mr Clinton for the presidency.

But now, in a hastily arranged appearance at the White House, Mr Dole said that he had changed his mind. A series of 28 steps taken to clarify the treaty had overcome his earlier concerns, although it was still not perfect, Mr Dole said. But he would have voted for it were he still in the Senate because there were now adequate safeguards to protect America's interests.

The White House hopes that Mr Dole's about-face will influence recalcitrant Republican senators who were to vote early today. At issue was the Chemical Weapons Convention, signed four years ago by 164 nations and already ratified by 74, including Britain. It takes effect next Tuesday.

The treaty's opponents in Washington were led by Jesse Helms, conservative chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who said that with such rogue nations as Libya, North Korea and Iraq refusing to sign, the treaty would be ineffective in controlling those most likely to engage in chemical warfare.

Strategic Survey 1996/97, IISS, Oxford University Press, £25.

Boettcher: accused husband of killing

Court in Hesse clears mother of murders

Frankfurt: A German mother, imprisoned 11 years ago for the murder of her two daughters, has been cleared on appeal by the state court in Hesse, which yesterday ruled there was insufficient evidence to send her back to jail (Deborah Collcutt writes).

Monika Boettcher, 39, known by her married name, Weimar, to the public which has avidly followed the case, fled to England last year when she was freed on appeal. Frau Boettcher, who broke down in court yesterday, accuses her husband of killing their children because he was jealous about her affair with an American soldier.

The prosecution, which is due to appeal against the ruling, claims that she strangled the girls, aged five and seven, whose bodies were found near the family home in Hesse, because they stood in the way of her plans to marry her lover.

FALEH KHEIBER / REUTER

An Iraqi helicopter pilot operating in the no-fly zone en route to Saudi Arabia, in defiance of a US warning about punitive action, to pick up pilgrims from the haj

Ali's silence voices need for Parkinson's research funds

From Ian Brodie in Washington

MUHAMMAD ALI made a memorable plea on Capitol Hill without uttering a word.

The former world heavyweight boxing champion appeared before a House subcommittee to promote new research into Parkinson's disease, of which he is a victim. Committee members invited him to speak. He leaned towards the microphone at the witness table, his hands trembling from his illness.

But his wife Lonnie, seated at his side, spoke instead. "The fact that I'm the one speaking to you and not Muhammad is one of the principal reasons we're here," she explained. Parkinson's had robbed him of his ability to talk clearly. "I'm sure you all remember Muhammad's pre-Parkinson days when he moved millions with his vibrant voice and poetic expression," she said.

Ali, 55, was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1984 but only in the past two years has he publicly supported research. Before that, he had not wanted to draw attention to his disability, said his wife, who has known him since they were growing up in Louisville, Kentucky. His mute half-hour in Congress drew more attention than hours of speeches and reams of reports. Once outside, he mugged as of old for the cameras, signed autographs and delivered mock punches at fans with a wink and a grin.

Ali's wife explained that he still talks to her all the time at home, but because of his disability he will not speak in public again. Though unwilling to talk, it was apparent he knew what going on around him and, as *The Washington Post* observed, he said everything he needed to without saying a word.

Ali was appearing in support of two Bills that would give the National Institutes for Health $100 million (£61 million) for research on Parkinson's disease next year.

Fujimori basks in backing for Lima attack

By Gabriella Gamini, South America correspondent

OPINION polls showing huge public approval for the storming of the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima confirmed the timely personal triumph for President Fujimori, which he will use to strengthen his political future.

The polls showed that 86 per cent of Peruvians backed the surprise military operation, which claimed the life of one hostage, the 14 Tupac Amaru guerrillas, who had occupied the residence, and two soldiers. His personal rating also shot up to 67 per cent. Two days before the assault, backing for Señor Fujimori tumbled to 38 per cent, its lowest level since his election in 1990.

Señor Fujimori is making the most of his renewed popularity. Yesterday he toured the slums of the capital and told the crowds: "You see I will protect you from the terrorist threat. Peru will not be at the mercy of terrorism and I mean to fight it with an iron fist. I will make this into a better and safer place to live."

Peruvian television yesterday also showed the President walking among the bodies of the slain rebels and having his picture taken standing by the bullet-riddled remains of Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerrillas.

Japan, which had not been keen on a military solution, congratulated the President for his actions. Yukihiko Ikeda, the Foreign Minister, arrived in Lima yesterday and there was talk of Japan offering more aid to Peru.

Señor Fujimori is trying to make constitutional amendments that will allow for his re-election in 2000. He will almost certainly use this latest rise in popularity to generate support for the move.

However, there are growing worries over the "militarisation" of the Government and the President's increasing reliance on the backing of the military and his authoritarian style. "All decisions in Peru are made by Fujimori, who surrounds himself with sinister figures from the armed forces and intelligence services," said Ricardo Letts, an opposition politician. Human rights organisations say there are suspicions that the commandos who raided the residence shot dead unarmed guerrillas.

"We want to know why it was necessary to kill them all and why the bodies are still in the hands of the military," said the spokesman of one group in Lima. "We have accounts which say that the two teenage women among the rebel group where shot and beaten as they tried to surrender."

The families of the dead rebels yesterday queued outside the Red Cross offices in Lima to demand that the bodies be handed over to them. "They killed the guerrillas like animals in a slaughter house. We want to give them a decent burial and yet we do not know what has happened to them," said the mother of one of the teenage rebels.

Guerrillas vow to take revenge

THE Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) has issued a warning that it will carry out "reprisals" for the commando raid, in which 14 of its guerrillas died, and it has vowed to continue its armed struggle against social injustice in Peru (Gabriella Gamini writes).

"Our comrades gave their lives for what they believed and did not turn their guns on the hostages when the military invaded the Japanese residence," said Isaac Velazco, the rebels' spokesman in Germany. "We have suffered military defeat, but have shown that Peru is ruled by a cruel, dictatorial Government."

The rebel organisation has its own Internet page and is known to collect funds through offices set up in European cities. The Marxist guerrillas invaded the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima on December 17 to demand the release of 458 comrades held in Peruvian jails. Victor Campos Polay, the group's founder, is held in an underground cell in a naval base outside Lima.

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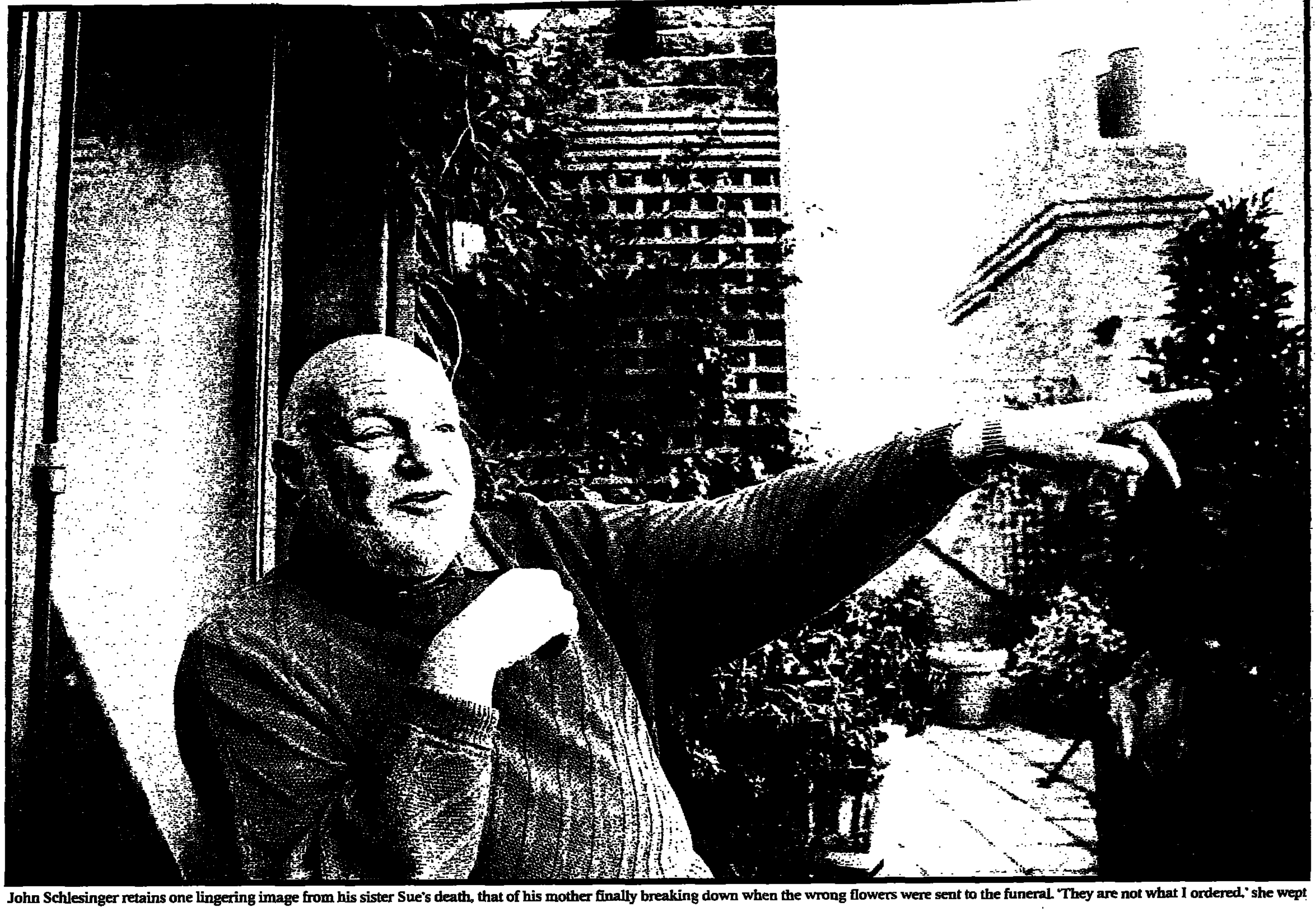
'Guilt is a pointless emotion'

It was more than 30 years ago that John Schlesinger's sister committed suicide, but the director is still suffering

ALAN WELLER



John Schlesinger retains one lingering image from his sister Sue's death, that of his mother finally breaking down when the wrong flowers were sent to the funeral. 'They are not what I ordered,' she wept

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

Last night's cinema premiere of John Schlesinger's film *Cold Comfort Farm*, already a success in America, was as usual, a charity affair. The starry sendoff for Stella Gibbons's comic classic was in aid of Befrienders International, the worldwide organisation that rescues the suicidal.

The link with Schlesinger is personal, since his youngest sister, the actress Susan Maryott, committed suicide in 1963. She had starred in Peter Hall's first Stratford season, but fell hopelessly in love with a married playwright. The affair ended, but when he was dying of a virulent cancer, his wife allowed Sue to sit at his bedside and nurse him. Three weeks after his funeral, Sue took an overdose of barbiturates, leaving a note saying she was going to join her lover. She was just 30.

Could anyone have known what would happen? John was away on holiday in Italy: he had asked her to come, too, to cheer her up, but she declined.

"Guilt is a pointless emotion, but it's something we suffer from," Schlesinger says. "You ask yourself, if only I hadn't gone away at that moment, if only I'd been more forceful in making her come with us ... I'm sure all of us in the family asked those questions."

The Schlesingers' five children — John, Wendy, the twins Roger and Hilary, and Sue — had grown up in a Queen Anne house at Inkpen in Berkshire, scene of great happy family Christmases with carol singing and feasting. The house was run by the housekeeper, Laura, known as Gulla, who stayed with them all her working life. "In Ireland recently, I was auditioning extras for crowd scenes — I'm particular about every detail, and I wanted people to have a certain period look, influenced by the cartoonist Rowlandson — and this woman walked in and I said 'I've got to have that wonderful face'. She looked exactly like Gulla."

Their father was a genial doctor who lived to be an energetic 87. In his seventies, deeply affected by his daughter's death, Schlesinger *père* began working for the Samaritans, manning the telephone line at Newbury. Now Schlesinger's younger brother Roger, the former publisher, works for Befrienders International.

I met John Schlesinger at his home, carved from the top two floors of a mansion block in South Kensington, with a spectacular rooftop vista. We sat out on the terrace under the setting sun with spritzers and spicy dips concocted by his partner, the casting director Noel Davis. Schlesinger was just back from Arizona, doing yoga, meditation "and something called Gong Chi" and had spent the day in a Soho cupboard, editing his next film, *Sweeney Todd*, shot in Dublin, with Ben Kingsley and Joanna Lumley.

The last time we spoke, five years ago, was when the Tory party machine, galvanised by the Labour-supporting film director Hugh Hudson's film about Neil Kinnock, had asked Schlesinger to shoot some scenes for their propaganda film. "I'm not ashamed of it, because it was a nice professional job," he told me at the time. "But it was not my idea, my script or my edit, so it was certainly not my film: it was the Saatchis' film."

But he did film "Major — the movie". "They suddenly rang me in LA and invited me to have breakfast with the PM. I thought 'Sounds interesting. I've never been to Downing Street before'. I liked John Major tremendously. We shot a lot of the film in his car [compare "Blair — the movie" last night] and it was so cramped he had to do the clapperboard himself, which he rather liked. He laughed a lot and was very funny. This image of a grey man was absolutely disproved to me."

His film business colleagues disapproved: what had the Tories ever done for the movie industry? "I couldn't say I did it out of deep political commitment. I did it because it would take me into areas I had never before experienced."

For the same reasons he once filmed a Churchill series for America. "First I turned it down because they weren't offering enough money and my father said, 'You are crazy! A chance to meet the most fascinating people of our time?' But I stuck out for my £75 a week and proceeded to direct interviews with Montgomery, Mountbatten, Slim. My father was right — they were extraordinary. Monty greeted me with 'Who're you? Oh, so you're the commander-in-chief of the whole operation'. And I got my Churchill curtains and carpets for the house I'd just bought."

Among Schlesinger's films are the most enduring classics of our time: *Billy Liar*, *Darling*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, *Midnight Cowboy*, *Marathon Man*. Last year, at 70, he joined the roll of honour that includes Bergman, Fellini and Malle, being awarded Bafta's Academy Fellowship.

Yet *Cold Comfort Farm*, faithfully adapted by Malcolm Bradbury and televised here at New Year in 1995, has waited two years for a cinema release. Why the delay? "Why ever the delay? The science of distribution is a mystery. It's been everywhere else. We're always at the bottom of the heap."

He had shot it in six weeks near his house in Sussex with its little steam railway near by. The cast — including Stephen Fry, Sir Ian McKellen, Miriam Margolyes, Kate Beckinsale — had a hilarious time. Eileen Atkins says it was "one of the happiest jobs I've ever done. John's a benevolent dictator, with a short fuse and a huge sense of humour. You can relax, knowing he's in control. I do like balls behind the camera, as Alec Guinness used to say."

John Schlesinger took a long time to find his métier. From Uppingham, he did National Service in the Royal Engineers, where he was a misfit and failed to get a commission. "I was dreadfully candid with the selection board. When asked to make a speech, I talked about being Jewish. My parents said 'You're mad, why did you do that?' and I said well I feel strongly about it, about prejudice." After Balliol, he started as an actor. The BBC turned him down for their directors' course. But he was taken on by Huw Wheldon's arts programme, *Monitor*: his first programme was about hair-raising Russian acrobats at Harringay circus. He loves circuses, the tackier the better.

He is mad about magic shows, too, ever since his father took him to see Maskelyne and Devant. He goes to magicians whenever possible, and recommends the famous duo Siegfried and Roy in Las Vegas (though he is no gambler: "Every roulette wheel in the world sees me coming"), who entertain lavishly in their apartment, complete with caged tigers.

His father's family and his mother's came from Frankfurt at the turn of the century. His maternal grandmother embraced the Church of England, but his parents remained Jewish. (In 1939, they brought over from Germany 12 Jewish children, who are still in touch.) "But they were very liberal minded: we were never barmitzvahed." His sister Hilary became a Roman Catholic and dedicates her life to good works. "I'm the only one of the family who is still a member of the congregation of the Liberal Synagogue in St John's Wood where I went as a child. I find it extraordinary, the former chief rabbi not going to Hugo Gryn's funeral. What's done in the name of orthodox religion of all kinds is so appalling."

He wishes he had given *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, with its theme of bisexuality daring for its time, more camp humour. He also finds *Darling* "dated and pleased with itself". But he is going to Bradford soon, where the city is celebrating *Billy Liar*, which was shot there. If only the late Joe Janni, for whom he directed six films, could be there. "He was my great mentor. I'd done a little film about an opera company, and he sent a message 'Will you come and see me? I'd like to discover you'. I said be my guest."

Last year a film of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* fell through — "perhaps we've had our Aids period" — but other projects line up: Malcolm Bradbury is writing the script of Virginia Woolf's *Flush: A Biography*: Dustin Hofman wants him to do Edith Wharton's *House of Mirth* and after his happy association with Alan Bennett, he longs to do a film of Bennett's *The Lady in the Van*. And, perhaps, a film with a suicide theme.

He retains one lingering image from his sister Sue's death. "My parents were tremendously strong, and when I rushed home, there wasn't a lot of huge, obvious weeping. But I will never forget that my mother only broke down finally when the wrong flowers were sent to the funeral. 'They're not what I ordered,' she wept. I might use that in a film one day."

SECTION 2
Those boots aren't made for walking: crazy footwear inaugurates the Science Museum's new Materials Gallery
Arts, pages 35-38

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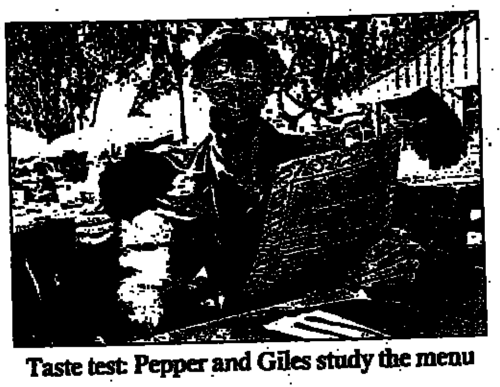
Where waiters say bone appetit

You don't need to ask for a doggy bag in California now that pampered pooches have their own restaurant, says **Giles Whittell**



Taste test: Pepper and Giles study the menu

It's not every day that you find yourself sharing a table with a scissor-toothed Chinese fighting dog chewing on a lean, ground turkey Wrangler Roundup at $2.25 (£1.40) recycled cardboard plate included. Then again, the Park Bench Cafe in Huntington Beach is not everyone's idea of what brochures call "fine dining".

Here, where the breakers of the eastern Pacific tickle the beaches of southern California, cults may come and go but the culture of pampering endures — for dogs as it does for men.

The Park Bench is a canine Quaglino's; the first restaurant in America to have a separate menu for dogs. Despite Johnny-come-lately rivals on both coasts, it is still *the* place in the New World for the gourmet pooch to be and be seen.

For human gastronomes, this tin-roofed shack an hour south of Los Angeles is nothing to write home about, but it is assuredly lively. By the time my companion and I had ordered brunch, old scissor-teeth had been hounded from his meal by Slash, an American pit bull, and our table had been all but pulled from under us by a doberman called Buddy chasing a husky called Frank. "Any dog is either mean or good," said Slash's owner from behind wrap-around, dark glasses, reining in his sleek eating machine and explaining that pit bulls just have "deeper emotions" than other dogs. Buddy's problem was finding Frank unendurably sexy while being tied to the table leg without knowing it.

Pepper, by contrast, was a picture of composure. A good thing, this. She was also my date. From the "canine cuisine" menu, my borrowed but very demure miniature Australian shepherd chose a Hot Diggity Dog plain, all-beef hot dog without the bun, cut up in "doggie-bite size", for $1.25. The waitress in the Bone Appetit T-shirt actually chose for her, explaining that simplest was best on any dog's first visit. But Pepper did sit up straight, commendably ignoring the feral hoi polloi. She did not flirt or leave crumbs, and did not complain when I read the paper instead of holding a proper conversation.

Anyone bothered by the gruesome parody of the Californian good life recently enacted by 39 suicidal cult members in northern San Diego should come to Park Bench in Huntington Beach for reassurance that the real thing is not dead.

Huntington Beach is everything California ever stood for: girls in bikinis in midwinter, boys in shades the better to ogle them, and cheap terracotta-coloured real estate stretching to the sea.

It is fitting that here the Golden State's obsession with creature comforts should have gone, as the followers of cult leader Marshall Applewhite might have said, beyond human. Besides the Wrangler Roundup and the Hot Diggity Dog, the canine menu features Hound Dog Heaven (a bunless burger at $1.85), a side of bacon (four rashers, $1.85) and Chilly Paws (one scoop of vanilla ice cream for 95 cents).

There is also the option of a poochie party. For less per dog than you would spend on one decent cappuccino in Beverly Hills, Fido and friends can celebrate their birthdays at the Park Bench (or at home, with catering trucked in), feasting on beef jerky, a choice of main course from the main menu and, for pudding, a personalised birthday cake or Chilly Paws all round. Beverage: beef broth.

Mei Ling, the Chinese fighting dog across the table, showed just how far she had come from making do with scraps by moving on to her owner's tuna sandwich once Slash had put her off her turkey. "She needs to brush up on her table manners," a doting Sherry Bowles acknowledged as the sandwich was dismantled with a ferocity worthy of the Boxer Rebellion. "I think it's the tomatoes and pickles she's not so keen on."

Business at the Park Bench has quintupled in eight years, making a wealthy man of owner Mike Bartusick, a former supermarket shelf stocker.

With America now home to 57 million dogs (not to mention 63 million cats, 70 million fish in 12 million tanks and 7 million pet ferrets), he is riding a tidal wave of pet mania.

As the country's $17 billion-a-year pet industry grows faster than the home video market, Mr Bartusick has expanded to accommodate up to 250 dogs and their owners on summer weekends. He is blasé about visits from Japanese TV crews and has happily hosted Uncle Mattie's nationally syndicated *Bow-Wow Radio Show*.

He is less relaxed about his imitators. "There are a lot of copycats out there," he says, no pun apparently intended. "In Chicago and Manhattan, they've started putting tables on the sidewalk and serving dogs Italian food. What I'm doing is more realistic."

It has to be. With lawsuits at two a penny, and a morbid fear of anything less than hospital-style hygiene in restaurants, state officials routinely shut down eateries at the slightest whiff of ageing lettuce. At the Park Bench, therefore, dogs may sit up to choose but must eat on the ground, on a leash, out of bowls provided. No picnics are allowed.

Buddy makes a final lunge for Frank, Pepper sighs and Mei Ling slumps into post-prandial torpor. As these privileged *gourmands* fall silent, Sherry Bowles picks at her pickles and swears that she once had a date with John Lennon in New York. He taught her all she knows about living in "the alpha state", she says. Oh, California.

The generation Gap

She's a billionaire's daughter who can shop anywhere yet Jemima Khan is hooked on BabyGap, says Style Editor **Grace Bradberry**

CHRIS HARRIS

Street cred: Jemima Khan's son Sulaiman makes his own fashion statement with his trendy outfits

No matter how serious Jemima Khan's intentions, she is doomed to make fashion statements wherever she goes. First she married Imran Khan, immersed herself in Islamic culture, and started a trend for shalwar kameez. Now she has taken to the streets of Kingston upon Thames in an effort to preserve British sovereignty — she was campaigning for her father's Referendum Party — and has confirmed the supremacy of BabyGap.

As he hit the hustings on Wednesday, Sulaiman, grandson of a billionaire, wore socks (£2.50), collegiate-style sweatshirt (£14), summer fleece cardigan (£16) and tracksuit bottoms (£10), all from BabyGap.

Whatever the voters thought of Mrs Khan appearing on their doorsteps, dozens of babies will have immediately recognised her son as one of them. As television presenter Emma Forbes says: "It's great because it's classless. Everyone can afford a few items." Even before daughter Lily, five months, was born, Emma had begun shopping there: "My sister told me I had to get in there before all the socks had sold out — they change every few weeks." Like Sulaiman, who was just weeks old when he wore a BabyGap suit on the cover of *Tatler*, Lily has worn the label from birth.

In many ways, we should applaud the trend. The American label is one of the great levellers among middle class mothers, uniting those who wore smocking and sailor suits with those whose earliest photographs feature pink towelling from Mothercare.

The cool, sportswear-influenced styles — miniature versions of the more expensive styles we would wear ourselves — have made the label a virtual obsession with some mothers. Witness the success of Chiswick High Street's new BabyGap. When it opened, there was uncertainty whether it could flourish, but after just two months it had met the targets predicted for six.

Now there is talk of opening an adult store — if parents have any cash left to spend.

So ubiquitous is the label that some claim "Gap" is replacing "cat" or "mat" as the first word that youngsters learn to read.

EVEN the level-headed find themselves succumbing. "I tried to dress mine in Hennes," says Maeve Haran, mother-of-three and author of *A Family Affair*. "But I found myself buying BabyGap's blue jeans. The baseball boots are great, even when the baby is too little to actually walk anywhere."

Bestsellers include anything with a logo, and in 1995 the chain introduced a range for newborns, thus hooking mothers in that pliable stage before cash realism sets in.

For some mothers, it never does. Pamela Anderson Lee managed to spend $692.13 (£435) in BabyGap as she beetled round dragging Ruby Wax and a BBC camera crew in tow. The voters of Pakistan would doubtless be alarmed to discover that Imran Khan's son shares his wardrobe with Brandon Lee, scion of *Baywatch*.

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Toss aside your family health encyclopaedia. It will be no use to you during the final week of the election campaign. Use this cut-out-and-keep guide instead . . .

AN ELECTION MEDICAL GLOSSARY

Sadomasochism: the condition in which you switch over to ITN's *News At Ten* even though you have just watched the BBC's specially extended *Nine O'Clock News*. If you then switch to BBC2 for *Newsnight* you should consult a specialist.

Alexia: word blindness, or Tony Blair's inability to pronounce certain words, specifically "socialism".

Halitosis: insulting odour emitted when a manifesto promise emerging from a politician's mouth is so implausible that it stinks.

Premeditation: disease that erupts around the dinner table when everyone suddenly becomes convinced they know the outcome of the election.

Irritable colon: pain in the backside, such as Jack Straw in his sanctimonious moods.

Compulsive talking: Starts with grimaces and progresses to involuntary comments as the affliction worsens, often culminating in episodes of coprolalia (using foul language) while watching *Election Call* on television, especially when Gordon Brown or Michael Howard are in the hot seat.

Scotoma: an area of abnormal vision, suffered by Paddy Ashdown and a few other Liberal Democrat candidates who believe they might form the next government.

Glossectomy: removal of all or part of the tongue, often prescribed by Peter Mandelson for John Prescott, Diane Abbott and Ken Livingstone.

Infantile spasms: seizure induced in politicians by Jeremy Paxman repeatedly barking the phrase, "For God's sake, answer the bloody question!"

Premature ejaculation: Unguarded comment made by Labour politician that is later "explained more fully" by Labour's rapid rebuttal unit.

And finally . . .

Vas deferens: but frankly, there isn't, certainly not between the Tories and Labour.

JOE JOSEPH

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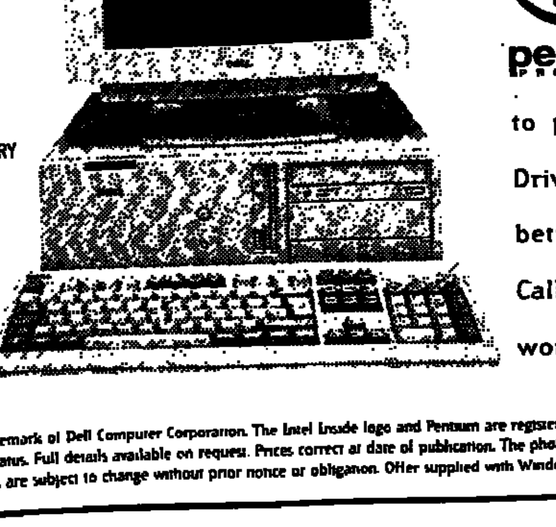

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Philip Howard

■ A tale of two pimpernels, or: the tumbrils of Calais

We seek him here, we seek him there,
Those Euros seek him everywhere.
Is he in heaven? — Is he in Hell?
That demmed, elusive Europhil.

Citoyen Santer of the Brussels Directory sighed deeply and pushed his spectacles farther down his prominent nose. He had done his best to smoke out just one of those beefy *Poudings* across the Channel who would admit to liking Santer's federal vision of a *République Européenne*. He had denounced his foes as "doom merchants", a *bon mot* that one of his charming English secretaries had given him. But *morbleu!* All that had happened was that their demnition news sheets had sunk their teeth into his substantial *derrière*, telling him to keep his "hooter" out of their election, and "Bugger off, Belgie Beetroot!" Since then ze doom merchants had multiplied as fast as dragon's teeth sown by the *bonnet rouge* or CAP of Liberty on set-aside land.

Santer could not put even his ubiquitous finger on the mysterious Scarlet Europhil, whose activities might make all the difference to his campaign. Every time he got close to him, Europhil changed his disguise from fan to phobe or grin to growl. Perhaps Europhil was one of those unshaven lorry-drivers queueing sullenly to break the French fishermen's blockade. But neither their language nor their primitive *croque-monsieurs* smoked on diesel fires beside the M20 seemed *communautaire*, intelligible or even edible. Santer shivered fastidiously. *Pardieu!* Europhil surely could not be that languid aristo Seigneur Cash, who made a convincing pose around the salons and studios of London as the most boring Parliamentarian since Simon de Montfort ran his first election campaign? How about M Urd in his green Loden coat, or M Ogg in his Bulgarian swineherd's hat? And who was the romantic Lady Marguerite, Europhil's lover and enemy, in this plot?

Santer's agents reported that Europhil was but a man madly, blindly, passionately in love, and as soon as Lady Marguerite's light footstep had died away within the House of Commons, he knelt down on the terrace steps, and in the very madness of his love he kissed the places where her small foot had trodden, and the stone balustrade where her handbag had rested last. Lady Marguerite was often referred to in Santer's directives as "the most intelligent woman in Europe". Though it has to be admitted that this claim is never substantiated by anything she does or says in the books.

The Scarlet Europhil, whether disguised as Sir William Cash or as Milord Tony Marlow in his gaudy costumes (*c'est incroyable mais c'est possible*), was described as "the perfect presentation of an English gentleman". But the directive's frequent reference to the Englishness of certain qualities sounds quite unEnglish.

The trouble with both Baroness Orczy and Citoyen Santer was and is that they are distinctly unEnglish. They cannot help that, poor souls. But they do tend to get details wrong. Orczy did not see that the English were bored out of their bowlers with her waffle about the history of the French Revolution. What they wanted was more romance and adventure, more apparent *tricoteuses* driving carts said to be full of BSE but actually conveying fleeing aristocrats, and ever more bogus high-life and historical references as cavalier as Ouida's.

For we English are *mordus* (fans) of romance, as can be judged from our passion for soaps and costume dramas. Citoyen Santer does not understand that for any foreigner to appear to take sides in a general election does that side harm. The English like to tear each other, but turn on any outside their tribe who join in.

The English and French love each other, really. We visit each others' countries, even for *le shopping*. Our languages, history and culture are very close. But the ancient enmity is part of an old game. Chaucer and Shakespeare played it, and so did Molière and Voltaire. At least Baroness Orczy was Hungarian enough to turn down the single payment of £30 that she was offered by an English publisher for *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. It may have faded, but her old romance has run and run. And so will the other defining Bulldog and Frog affair.

RED AND BLUE MAKE PURPLE...

People in search of a party

The Tories may lose Middle Britain to new Labour. But who then will speak for the poor and the public sector?

Matthew Parris

Could the Labour Party permanently supplant the Conservative Party in the affections of Middle Britain? And could the Tories swerve off towards what we may dub the Likud Tendency? And, if so, who will occupy the ground deserted by Labour? These may prove to be the great questions whose genesis we are witnessing, without knowing it, in the spring of 1997.

Being hearsay, the remark should not be attributed, but it rings true. A Labour candidate in a rock-solid London seat was reported to me as having snapped at a tiresome and disillusioned supporter: "I don't care what you think; you've nobody to vote for but me." The remark was tactless but true. I remember thinking (without voicing) much the same, when as a Conservative candidate I was tackled by unpleasantly right-wing voters in Derbyshire.

What nobody can deny — indeed the modernisers in Tony Blair's model army boast of it — is that the Labour leadership has organised for his tribe an exodus of which Moses himself would have been proud. Mr Blair has had luck — the waters of the Red Sea parted for him at a critical moment — but he has lacked neither judgment nor an overriding sense of direction. Focus groups and polling organisations his pillars of cloud and fire, he has held to his course, and on May 2 the young prophet looks likely to reach his land of milk and honey. In little more than a decade, Neil Kinnock and Mr Blair have shifted a whole great party from one place to another.

How do we describe this shift? It has lately become fashionable to abandon the vocabulary of class, and speak instead in terms of policies. We return to a pre-Marxian view of the world, imagining Britain can no longer be looked at through the prism of class interest. The change suits Blairite theorists, for an idea or policy, once abandoned, is dead; over; finished: an ex-policy; a former idea.

But a class, abandoned, is still there. The question "When a party moves from old ground to new ground, who represents the old ground?" is not difficult for a Blairite. "It has ceased to exist. It is the past," he says — and it is notable how Mr Blair has acquired a habit for meeting substantive questions about policy with the answer, "We are not going back to the past."

I rather think, however, that although Marxism may be dead, Marxian class analysis retains some force. Although many individuals are mobile, and class barriers by no means impenetrable, Britain at the end of the 20th century still contains huge and quite homogenous socio-economic groupings which do retain an inchoate sense of class interest. Travelling thousands of miles for *The Times* during this election campaign, parachuting into contrasting places peopled by electors in distinct and different walks of life, I do not believe that class, or class interest, is dead.

So, if new Labour have moved, where — in class terms — have they moved, and whom have they left behind? The first part of the answer is easy. They have moved to Middle Britain, a land inhabited by people on decent incomes who do not depend much on state welfare and live orderly lives. The Conservative Party, who used to represent much of this class, have grown increasingly unlikeable, and it is perfectly possible that new Labour may put down roots here and stay, slowly strangling the Tories.

If — as seems to be the Tories' present lunatic, self-destructive instinct — the Conservative Party does not stay to fight its ground, but moves ("clear blue water" and all that) to islands where it is unchallenged, we shall see the Likud Tendency triumph in that party. It could establish itself securely with a permanent 20 per cent of the electorate composed of the rich, the mad, the bitter and the bigoted. The party could be happy there for an eternity, holding its ground, never winning outright, and wrecking other people's coalitions.

Thus are one great bloc — the middle — and another tenacious fringe — the Likud settlers — occupied, one way or another, by new Labour and the Conservative Party. Who is left behind?

A class, or rather a coalition of classes, older than the century. First and most obviously, the poor. Pardon me for *reminding you of this, but the poor do* still exist in Britain, and in rather large numbers. Perhaps as many as a quarter of the population come under the catch-all heading of "unpaid or underpaid, unemployed, uneducated, unwell or black" (though that is not to deny that some from all of these groups have escaped the deprivation that the catch-all implies).

This class — it includes the people who used to emigrate — though historically unempowered in British politics, has found support in an unspoken coalition with a different class, little mentioned during this election: the public sector. Many in the public sector are not poor at all, but they all share an overwhelming class interest in the disbursement of state welfare. Though nominally among the victims of high taxation, they are also, through their careers, the recipients of it.

It is hard to believe that these two classes — the poor, and those who spend taxpayers' money — do not amount, in coalition, to two fifths of the population, perhaps more. Have they been abandoned by new Labour, and do they know it? The answer is "probably" and "probably not, yet".

Tony Blair would argue that it is possible to embrace Middle Britain without deserting these classes — to occupy, so to speak, both territories. But Gordon Brown will soon be telling him, if he does not already know, that this argument may be sustainable in opposition but cannot be sustained in government.

Margaret Thatcher knew that with terrifying certitude. Thatcherism was nothing if not a rallying of "our people". She knew that you had to choose, and chose. New Labour, too, will have to choose, and I believe (contrary to Conservative Central Office propaganda) that he is disposed to choose as Mrs Thatcher did.

Do the poor and their public sector providers have any presentiment of this? So far, I suspect, only faintly. Watch the Labour turnout on the worst council estates next Thursday; watch the inroads that the Liberal Democrats may make into the affections of the public sector.

Canvassing in Skipton and Ripley in Yorkshire yesterday with the Tory candidate, David Curry, I heard that there is some early evidence of public sector workers switching to the Liberal Democrats because they are impressed by Paddy Ashdown's pledge to turn an extra penny on income tax to good account, in the education system. There must be scope for Liberal Democrats to capitalise on that, although the party will be hampered by its historical dissociation from organised Labour.

But these are early days, and only stirrings. Tony Blair's remarkable success at staving off the question is easily explained. First, most people want the Tories out. Secondly, the Labour Party is still called "the Labour Party" — isn't it? — and most Labour candidates in winnable seats are, or were, sitting Labour MPs. It is basically the same crew. This enables Mr Blair to boast that the party has changed while insinuating — Keir Hardie and all that — that it really hasn't. Thus he wins new support while retaining the support that he had.

For the moment. But within months that straddle will become the splits. At this point Mr Blair must deftly reposition one leg or the other. Tory propagandists will tell you that Middle Britain will be abandoned by new Labour. I incline to the other possibility. Conservative Central Office had better brace itself for the nightmare outcome: that Tony Blair really means it.

By the end of the century, if not before, new Labour may have supplanted the Tories and a very large number of people, composing two quite mobilisable classes, will be feeling distinctly unrepresented. Something will have to give.

Will it be a split in the Labour Party? Will it be a surge in Liberal Democrat support? Will the false dawn of Arthur Scargill's new party yield to something less risible? Will the Tory Likud, adding English nationalism to its armoury, begin to recruit among the hopeless, where dwell the SWP and the BNP? I do not know, but the seismology could prove as interesting as any preliminary tremor next Thursday could bring.

Go and vote for a change

Tessa Blackstone

sees clear red water between the parties

With less than a week to the general election, those who tell the pollsters they don't know or don't care should relent and abandon their indifference. The first question to ask them is: "Do you want to wake up on May 2 and find that we have elected the same party for the fifth time and that Michael Howard, Douglas Hogg, Michael Portillo and Virginia Bottomley are still there? Wouldn't a new team with some new ideas be preferable to the same, tired old lot?" The second question is: "Isn't it time for a change, not just to be refreshed by new faces, new voices, new approaches to the problems we face, but also in the interest of democracy?"

As recent years have shown beyond reasonable doubt, having the same people in power for too long corrupts; it leads to arrogance and a refusal to listen; to pretended rather than genuine consultation. There is no need for reminders about ministers and former ministers who took cash for questions. But some voters may have forgotten about the arms for Iraq scandal and the Scott report, or the extent to which ministers tried to cover up the effects of BSE. Others may have forgotten just how many times Conservative ministers have been found by the courts to be in breach of the law.

Some alienated and cynical voters may reply that, while accepting the case for changing the people in power in support of a healthy democracy, it will make little or no difference to policies and priorities. Therefore, as there is nothing to choose between the parties, they will not bother to go to the polling station. They are wrong. A simple audit shows that Labour has plenty of policies that will make a difference. The jibe from the Right that Labour has no policies is claptrap. If anything, a Labour government will have difficulty in implementing the whole of its manifesto for change in a single term, which is why Mr Blair is right to work for two parliaments to put in place a programme which is more radical than some give him credit for.

Labour will modernise the constitution and reinvigorate our politics; the Tories won't. It will decentralise decision-making through devolution to Scotland and Wales; it will restore to local communities the right to exercise control over what happens in their own locality. The Tories will do nothing. Labour will tackle excessive government secrecy through a Freedom of Information Act, and stop inventing quangos which are not publicly accountable. To protect the rights of citizens it will incorporate into UK law the European Convention on Human Rights. Parliament will be reformed by getting rid of hereditary peers and making ministers more accountable in the House of Commons. The Conservatives will do none of this. They are happy with the system as it is. For those who are not happy with the way our democracy is seizing up, here is a programme of real change to vote for.

It doesn't stop there. To take a subject which hasn't been discussed much in the campaign, but which worries voters, Labour will promote community care to ensure that public services for frail and vulnerable people, including the elderly, the mentally ill and the disabled, are available to those that need them. The Conservative record on supporting those who can no longer look after themselves is dismal. Last year 40,000 elderly people had to sell their homes to pay for care in a residential home. A Royal Commission on long-term care for the elderly will be set up by Labour and a national long-term care charter will be introduced, setting out standards for local care. The elderly are the biggest users of the NHS. The Tories' internal market has led to a two-tier system in which people in the same street but with different GPs may not have the same access to their local hospital. Under Labour's local commissioning all GPs will be able to send their patients to the hospitals of their choice. Quite a few differences here, too.

Labour is committed to a welfare to work programme that starts with the young unemployed. The Conservatives are not. A windfall tax on the privatised utilities will pay for a programme to get a quarter of a million young people off the dole and, in some cases, out of trouble with the law. Without urgent action to provide these youngsters with skills and jobs, Britain will face a lost generation of marginalised, young adults with no stake in their own society. And the more "no-hopers" there are, the more likely it is some will turn to crime.

In 1979 only one in 12 households had no one earning a wage. Today the figure is one in five. No wonder: there are a million fewer jobs than when Mr Major became Prime Minister. Labour will change the benefit system to remove the traps that discourage people from taking jobs, and provide a subsidy to employers to take on the long-term unemployed. Plenty of differences here, too.

For those who still are not sure about the differences, I could mention education, pensions, Europe, the environment, small businesses, research and development, the lottery and international aid. In all these areas there is clear red water between Labour and Conservative policies and the values that inform them. Voters have no excuse for ducking out on May 1. They should get out and vote, preferably for new policies, of which there are plenty, and for new people with a mandate to carry them out.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

THE TIMES DIARY

Party politics

DISAPPOINTMENT shrouds the glass-fronted offices of ITN in London, where an election-night party hosted by the tremendous anchorwoman Julia Somerville has been abandoned. She was to have presented some of ITN's poll day coverage from a celebrity-packed party in London, but the idea has been dropped amid allegations of insufficient interest from partygoers.

ITN admitted yesterday that the party would not be held, and that Somerville was no longer a key figure in the election night broadcasting team. After being told that she would be required at the party, she has now been discharged from that responsibility.

ITN said yesterday that election night would be presented by its political editor, Michael Brunson, and by Jonathan Dimbleby, Alastair Stewart and Sue Lawley. Somerville was not mentioned.

"There was an idea of having a party, but for programming reasons — and not for any other — it was decided not to go ahead with the project," said a spokesman for ITN. "The invitations were never sent out."

Somerville — party-pooped

Beer we go

BODDINGTONS, the brewers, have had to scrap a £40,000 advertising campaign because Manchester United lost their European Cup semi-final. So confident were the brewers that United were going to win Wednesday's match that the adverts were ready to run in the morning's local newspapers.

Frantic eleventh-hour calls were made to withdraw the advertisements after United lost 1-0 to Borussia Dortmund at Old Trafford. The ads would have featured a pint of the frothy beer, with a Dortmund badge and the word "Creamed".

Green view?

ANITA RODDICK, the nannying founder of the Body Shop empire, has been campaigning to prevent a pub near her home in West Sussex from extending a car park. Her view of the Sussex Downs is likely to be disrupted by the plans of the George and Dragon at Houghton.

"The introduction of a car park will destroy the pleasant rural outlook of my client's property," explains her agent Anthony Greenwood.

Can this be the same Anita Roddick who caused local outrage two years ago when she tried, and was prevented by the local council, to build a laboratory, an office block and a car park on three acres of prime agricultural land at the Body Shop headquarters in Littlehampton, West Sussex?

Hope of glory

THE latest salvo in the race to succeed Cardinal Basil Hume, who under canon law must offer his resignation to the Vatican before his 75th birthday next year, comes from the super-smooth Roman Catholic Bishop in North London, the Right Rev Vincent Nichols.

Bishop Nichols, 51, whose benign looks and lustrous hair induce swoons down the aisle, does little to hide his ambition. He is said to have turned down the offer to succeed the late Derek Worlock as Archbishop of Liverpool last year with his eyes on the greater prize. Now he has written a book. Its title? *Promise of Future Glory.*

Bishop Nichols: high aims

A bad trip

ADVICE to taxi drivers: beware men called Lalor-Smith. Earlier this month, Ian Lalor-Smith, 64, a British Army captain visiting New Zealand, hailed a taxi to his hotel. He then asked the driver to take him to Taupo, some 130 miles away, clocking up about £100 on his Visa card: then at Taupo, he told the driver to keep heading south, which he did, another 280 miles, almost to the southern tip of North Island.

Hereupon, the driver became concerned and turned back for Auckland. When the time came to pay the full fare, Captain Lalor-Smith turned out his pockets and produced only £300, about a third of what he owed. A local court discharged him without conviction on a fraud charge. His lawyer pleaded that he wanted to return to Britain without a record, but it is not clear whether he will be required to pay the remaining amount. His fuming driver will be doing only short trips from now on.

Tennant: New York bound

- *Bad news for the reputation of swinging London: Stella Tennant, supermodel, has bought a flat in the West Village in New York. She plans to share it with her boyfriend, a French photographer. For all the huff and bother about London's move to the centre of the fashion world, New York, say Miss Tennant's colleagues, is still the place for the thoroughly modern mannequin.*

P·H·S

THE AWKWARD SQUAD

New Labour needs some old dissidents

Dissent has not been a feature of the well-oiled Mandelson machine in this contest. An iron discipline has descended upon a party that once prided itself on a sense of anarchy. To the intense irritation of Conservative Central Office, few Labour candidates have expressed deviant sentiments in their election material. Tony Blair has achieved a supremacy over his colleagues that would be the envy of all his predecessors.

That combination of charm and steel will be an asset on polling day. It may prove to be a liability in office. A party out of power for so long would be wise to seek counsel within its own ranks before embarking on its programme. Mavericks, much mocked by party managers at present, should come into their own in the next House of Commons.

In that spirit, *The Times* would commend Frank Field, Tam Dalyell, and Denzil Davies to their respective constituencies. Unlike other figures whom we have sought to highlight, their electoral prospects hardly demand outside endorsement. They have served in Parliament for 80 years between them. At the last poll their combined majorities exceeded 43,000 votes. The residents of Birkenhead, Linlithgow, and Llanelli seem unlikely to reject them now. But in another sense they are an endangered species: unconventional men of intelligence, integrity, and undoubted independence.

Frank Field has been a figure of exceptional importance in the debate over the future of social security. That much can be seen by the respect accorded to his views by Peter Lilley throughout the past Parliament. At one stage Tony Blair seemed set to place reform of the welfare state at the heart of his agenda. His associates argued that only a Labour leader could embark on radical change just as Richard Nixon, the Cold War crusader, was the sole American President who could first visit Communist China.

In this campaign Mr Blair has abandoned radicalism in favour of scaremongering soundbites about Tory plans to "privatise pensions". It appears Nixon is travelling to China on a very slow boat indeed. That only increases the need for Mr Field. The role that he plays over the next five years will be the best indication of Mr Blair's intentions for the welfare state. It is almost impossible to imagine that essential reform will take place if Mr Field remains on the backbenches.

Neither Tam Dalyell nor Denzil Davies will be offered ministerial portfolios. But both have sent warnings that should not be ignored. Mr Dalyell has opposed devolution with passion over two decades. He was the parent of the original West Lothian question. Twelve months ago he was the sole Labour MP north of the border to suggest that a Scottish Parliament should be subject to a referendum. That is now, of course, party policy. Constitutional change has the power to wreck a Blair premiership. His first twelve months might be lost in a struggle that much of the country deems irrelevant. He would do well to listen to Mr Dalyell.

The other issue with a similar explosive quality is Europe. Denzil Davies has emerged as the leading Eurosceptic within Labour ranks. His forceful dissection of the Maastricht treaty impressed all sides of the political spectrum. A former Treasury Minister, he has made a persuasive case that Labour's economic aspirations could be destroyed by incautious entry into a single currency. Much of that which Robin Cook fears, Mr Davies already articulates. His voice deserves the widest audience.

Mr Blair has asked for support on the basis that what he has done for his party he can do for the country. That is not an unreasonable comparison. But Whitehall and Westminster also require different techniques from those designed to achieve dominance of Walworth Road. He might not always appreciate the advice he receives from this awkward trio. That would be no reason not to solicit it.

PRIVATE LIVES

Independent education looks beyond the election

Education is the stated priority of all three political parties. Despite that it has not played the role that it might in this election. That is not for want of difference in detail. However, the contrast is far less stark than when Labour sought to abolish private schooling. All sides now endorse the principles of choice, quality, and accountability.

Against that backdrop, the annual conference of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) opened yesterday. Like teachers, schools in the fee-paying sector are represented by several different professional bodies. The ISA membership is drawn predominantly from smaller and less exclusive establishments. Inevitably, the prospect of a Labour government loomed large over both the official and unofficial agendas.

The trends already present in independent education are likely to matter more than specific proposals from Tony Blair. After the shock of recession, the numbers seeking admission are moving upwards. That increase would have been more pronounced had it not been for grant maintained schools, many of which provide results that match their fee-paying contemporaries.

The rise in overall numbers masks a quite dramatic shift against boarding schools. The sad announcement that Carmel College in Oxfordshire — the "Jewish Eton" — will shortly close, is part of the phenomena known as the 90-minute rule: the reluctance of parents to consider boarding institutions more than a 90-minute drive distant. Headmasters have found, sometimes to their horror, that the customer is king.

Similarly, the introduction of league tables has had a stark impact. Attractive buildings and snob value are no substitute for solid A-level achievement. Schools which had become rather complacent, confident that their status would assure their future, have had little choice but to adapt or die.

It might be tempting to conclude that David Blunkett could not possibly have the impact that Margaret Thatcher has already managed. That would be true if it were not for Labour's proposal to abolish the Assisted Places Scheme. That subject really will dominate ISA deliberations this week and beyond. If implemented its effect would be two-fold. Weaker foundations, those that have not fully adjusted to the world of grant maintained schools, parental choice, and league tables, will find it difficult to replace their assisted places. Many will not be in business five years hence.

However, establishments with a reputation for academic excellence will suffer no financial hardship from the abolition of assisted places. There will be waves of wealthy families waiting in the wings to take such slots. What will be lost is diversity within those schools and opportunity for the children concerned. To a striking degree it will be the offspring from single parent families and ethnic minorities who suffer.

Labour's manifesto refers to the "apartheid" between private and public education. Yet the destruction of the Assisted Places Scheme would lead to a far more literal sense of apartheid. The private sphere would become the preserve of the rich. It is hard to reconcile that outcome with the admirable objectives for education that Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett have outlined. Independent education will remain alive and well whoever occupies Downing Street. Its character is far less certain.

ROYAL MAIL

Imitation is the best form of philately

George V was not a man renowned for his intellectual pursuits. But he shared with his subjects a passion for one of the most widespread and edifying of all hobbies: stamp-collecting. He spent hours poring over rare issues, freak watermarks and the vivid commemorative stamps that were beginning to make an appearance in Britain and the British Empire. George VI shared his father's enthusiasm, and bequeathed to the Queen a royal collection that was one of the finest in the world.

Hippophily rather than philately fills the Queen's free moments; but she still takes an interest in the collection, particularly on the rare occasions when it is exhibited. It is therefore something of a coup for Stamp 97, the Wembley showcase for this burgeoning hobby, to be lent her spectacular pages of commemoratives, including artists' essays for the Coronation, Silver Jubilee and 1978 Coronation Jubilee issues.

Stamp-collecting is enjoying a renaissance after more than a decade in the doldrums. It was enormously popular in the 1950s, and a postwar baby boom generation probably has stamp-collecting to thank for painlessly inculcating obscure historical and geographical facts: which countries made up the Portuguese empire, where Danzig was, why Edward VIII was never crowned, why Weimar Germany overprinted stamps to the value of 10 billion marks and which countries call themselves Suomi and Helvetia.

Greed, however, ruined the market. Little countries long ago discovered that gaudy pictures and frequent issues brought in ready cash. San Marino with triangular stamps, Hungary with its wildlife and idyllic Caribbean scenes of Lotus island beauty were joined by other ruthlessly commercial post offices. American collectors' agencies bought up venal post ministries in the Gulf and Africa, which happily put out regular "commemoratives" of film stars or footballers entirely unknown to the correspondents whose letters they were supposed to adorn. The Crown Agents have seen philately as a export bonanza for dependent territories: without stamps Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha and St Helena would be in even worse shape than they already are.

With the Royal Mail now marking every conceivable patriotic occasion, including, next month, such bizarre achievements as Frankenstein, Dracula and other British tales of terror, bulging albums need more and more loose leaves. Speculators have moved into the market and auction houses discovered an enthusiasm for the hobby — until a Penny Black or Mauritius blue fails to deliver the promised bonanza. Now the baby-boomers, reaching retirement, are getting out their collections again. New issues abound. But stamp design rarely matches the classic plates in the Queen's collection, nor can garish photographs surpass the austere beauty of old engraved designs. Stamps should return to their roots; imitation is the best form of philately.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nationality and sovereignty at issue in election debate

From the Director of
The Freedom Association

Sir, Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, appears to agree with voters who object to "foreigners" like President Santer "telling us how to vote" (report, April 22).

The President of the European Commission must obviously warn against politicians who argue, even half-heartedly, for national independence. In any case, like it or not, Mr Santer shares with Mr Smith a common European citizenship: he is not a foreigner. When he retires he will be able to live and vote in Britain or even stand for office in our local and European elections.

Is Mr Smith, in this European Year against Racism, not going to campaign against Le Pen's French National Front? We cannot now ignore, as European citizens, the political direction taken by the constituent parts of our federal Europe. As "democratic" control shifts to a European Parliament laws in Britain will be made with contributions by French National Front members, even when domestic fascists fail to gain representation in our Westminster backwater.

Mr Smith and other regional politicians must accept that, thanks to their efforts, we are in a new era of politics, compelled to participate, no matter how helplessly, in a political structure that relegates our Parliament to impotence.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD HARTUP,
Director,
The Freedom Association,
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.
April 23.

From the Editor of New European

Sir, Mr Jacques Santer's so-called outburst against Europe's Eurosceptics (letter, April 23) puts some substance into the pre-election debate on Europe. I met him in Strasbourg just before he became President of the Commission and we ranged over the whole topic of Europe. I was struck by his sincerity and lack of arrogance.

I think Mr Santer was right when he said earlier that "Europe should try to do less, better". Although I believe that Europe needs a common currency — and would need it even if the EU had never come into existence — for European trade, I am also convinced that we need currencies to match economic potential, whether at the national or regional levels. Money should not be a means of suppressing economic potential. The trouble occurs when governments create it for political reasons, where there is *not* economic potential.

Of course, if the EU is going to widen we need a reformed decision-making structure, but that is not such a bad thing if we are limiting the areas of European competence and introducing the principle of flexibility.

Groups of countries should be allowed to go ahead in the areas they wish to develop but the onus should be on them to prove that what they want to do is in no way detrimental to the vital interests of fellow member states.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COLEMAN,
Editor,
New European,
14-16 Carroun Road, SW8.
April 23.

From Sir Christopher Cockerell, FRS

Sir, I seem to recall Sir Edward Heath saying that history has nothing to tell us about the European Union. I am not sure that this is true. Napoleon tried to become the dictator of Europe. So did Bismarck and Hitler. Each time we had to step in.

The current proposal for Europe is to have an appointed Commission, a non-sovereign Parliament and a European bank run by non-elected people. This is a long way from a democracy and looks dangerous.

The two countries with most experience of running a democracy are the United Kingdom and the United States; in both, to slow things and make sure that new legislation has deep attention, there is a second chamber. Surely a second chamber is equally essential for the proper governing of 500 million Europeans.

To me the priority would be to persuade the Europeans to alter the organisation to a safe and proven form before there is a move to a common currency and a further loss of sovereignty.

An "English" American, Benjamin Franklin, was largely responsible for the brilliant United States Constitution. A modern Franklin could do the same for Europe.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER COCKERELL,
16 Prospect Place,
Hythe, Southampton.
April 23.

From Mr John M. Kennedy

Sir, The letter (April 19) from Mr Roy Hattersley, Lord Howe and Sir David Steel on behalf of the European Movement warning us of the changes to Britain outside Europe says it all.

The only reasons they put forward against leaving Europe are those stemming from Europe as a free-trade zone, increased business costs, foreign investment deterred, etc. Most people in Britain would, I am sure, fully support a free-trade zone and, indeed, probably think that was all they voted for in the last referendum on the Common Market, as it was then styled.

The letter makes no mention whatsoever of the political and social advantages that might stem from Britain being a part of a federal European Union. I wonder why?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KENNEDY,
9 Orme Court, W2.
April 21.

From Mr Michael S. Bruce

Sir, Mr Hattersley and his distinguished colleagues are, of course, quite right: Britain should be in and and leading Europe. Foolishly, the French and the Germans do not share their view. Europe is led without much regard for Britain's interests or wishes.

Years of negotiation under Tory and Labour governments have failed to alter this situation. What do Mr Hattersley and his friends propose to do about it?

Yours faithfully,
M. S. BRUCE,
3 Wistow Road, Selby, Yorkshire.
April 23.

Challenge to UK of EU presidency

From the Chairman of the Institute for European Environmental Policy, London

Sir, The next Government, of whichever party, will take over the presidency of the EU Council on January 1, 1998. This institute believes that the presidency will offer powerful opportunities to take a decisive lead on environmental protection in Europe.

Although there will be an inherited agenda largely predetermined by its predecessors and by detailed Commission proposals already on the table, the UK presidency will have the opportunity to influence the debate on several issues of major environmental significance. These include the reform of the structural and cohesion funds (due to expire in 1999) spent on developing selected regions, the reform of the common agricultural policy and the common fisheries policy, and enlargement of the EU to embrace countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

While consideration of the environmental implications of some of these issues is well developed, the debate on enlargement has hardly begun. The UK presidency could begin to bring into the open both the costs to the applicant countries, and to the EU budget, of their meeting modern environmental standards, and the opportunities that EU membership will bring in ensuring that environmental values are respected.

The key is early preparation. The conclusion of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) will be an immediate preoccupation but, from May 2, it will be equally important to start at once to build the foundations for a productive presidency. In this process the UK can give leadership by clearly projecting that the European Union's common identity rests, to an important extent, on its shared natural environment and a firm commitment to sustainable development.

Yours faithfully,
CRANBROOK,
Chairman,
Institute for European Environmental
Policy, London,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1.
April 24.

Abortion broadcast

From Mr Kevin Prendergast

Sir, It is puzzling indeed that the main television channels, which regularly transmit a diet of rape, sodomy, incest, robbery, murder, suicide and pornography, should have suddenly become conscious of their responsibilities with respect to public decency and good taste and deemed that a section of the election broadcast with footage showing an actual abortion should be banned (report, April 23).

Has there been a sudden change of heart or is this yet another example of the negative bias which appears to be so frequently shown on all matters, moral or religious?

Yours etc,
KEVIN PRENDERGAST,
Hawarden House,
12b Lache Lane, Chester.
April 24.

From Mr Simon Bird

Sir, Although I do not think that shock is an appropriate means of convincing people in the debate about abortion, the decision by broadcasters not to screen parts of the Prolife party's election broadcast serves to illustrate a profound unease about abortion.

If broadcasters, who are known for pushing at the bounds of decency in dramatic presentation and not being squeamish, have reached this conclusion about a real action performed on unborn children, what are their consciences telling them?

They could act, not by cutting scenes from a party political broadcast, but by furthering informed debate so that the acceptability of abortion will diminish in our culture.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON BIRD,
71 Wilderness Road,
Earley, Reading, Berkshire.
April 24.

Underground accolade

From Mr A. R. Haydon

Sir, Belinda Archer calls London Underground "somewhat humourless" (Media, April 23) — which, no doubt, on many occasions it is, but her comment is occasioned by its refusal to display the recent advertisement containing the words "orgasm" and "foreplay".

London Underground — and I never thought I would find myself saying it — is clearly right to say that the poster "could . . . put people travelling with children in a difficult situation".

Belinda Archer complains of "a possibly worrying trend among media owners to become guardians of the nation's moral wellbeing". I think they have a duty, like all people of influence, to defend that very wellbeing.

Might there not be a possibly worrying trend among journalists to let the nation's moral wellbeing go hang?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. HAYDON,
The Old Hall Wing,
132 The Street, Rockland St Mary,
Nr Norwich, Norfolk.
April 24.

Support for US sanctions on Burma

From Mrs Glenys Kinnock,
MEP for South West Wales East
(Socialist Group (Labour))

Sir, I welcome the US announcement of the imposition of sanctions against the Burmese military regime over the abuse of human rights in Burma (report, April 23). We must now look to European countries to follow their lead, building on the decision on March 24 to withdraw Burma's preferential market access to the EU.

In recent months Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly urged Washington to impose economic sanctions. Attacks on National League for Democracy members have increased significantly and become more menacing.

There has been increasing concern for her safety and that of her supporters, who face intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest, imprisonment and threats to their welfare and that of their families, including the threat of torture and murder.

The US decision will mean a great deal to the opposition led by Daw Aung. Labour will put the protection and promotion of human rights at the centre of our foreign policy; in the party's national executive committee statement at last year's conference the British Government was called upon to exert whatever pressure it could in order to bring about an end to the repression and the restoration of full human and political rights in Burma. Tony Blair invited Daw Aung to address the Labour Party conference last October, but effective house arrest prevented her from attending.

Yours sincerely,
GLENYS KINNOCK,
Constituency office,
1 Bridge View,
Cwmfelinfach, Newport, Gwent.
April 23.

Healing of animals

From His Honour David Stinson

Sir, I hope that the RSPCA investigators looking into the use of prayer to heal a dog injured in a road accident (report, April 18) will note the Reverend J. Cameron Peddie's *The Forgotten Talent — God's Ministry of Healing* (Oldbourne, 1961).

In a chapter headed "All God's creatures", this Glasgow priest particularises three of a number of occasions when he ministered to sick dogs by the laying on of hands in the name of Jesus, leading to their healing. One such case was characterised by the dog-owner's vet as a "miracle".

Yours truly,
DAVID STINSON,
Barrack Row,
Waldringfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
April 18.

'Moral' democracy

From the Reverend J. D. Brown

Sir, The Bishop of Oxford (letter, April 15) is not being entirely fair to Simon Jenkins (article, April 12) who acknowledges the moral basis of democracy by quoting Alasdair MacIntyre's definition: " . . . the construction of local forms of community, within which civility and the intellectual and moral life can be sustained".

The Archbishop of Canterbury is to be applauded for exercising his role of moral leadership by initiating a national debate on public morality, which is not aimed at imposing a moral code but a means of arriving at a consensus on what moral values can rightfully be shared.

Yours sincerely,
J. D. BROWN,
3 Manor Way, Elmer Sands,
Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex.
April 21.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Too many cats

From Mr F. Paul Taylor

Sir, More cruelty to cats is not the only consequence of the increasing cat population (report, April 23).

The wildlife in our towns and villages is being devastated. Thrushes and blackbirds and all the smaller birds which used to nest in our hedges and shrubbery have long since been killed.

This spring the cats have turned their attention to the frogs in our pond which have given us so much delight and interest over the years. All have been mauled and not a single one is left.

If those who keep cats are really animal lovers they should give a thought to all the wildlife their pets destroy. No wonder our small birds are fast disappearing.

Yours faithfully,
F. PAUL TAYLOR,
7 Kingsway,
Frodsham, Cheshire.
April 24.

Lottery grants

From the Chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission

Sir, The research published by the Directory of Social Change (report, April 15) appears to fail to distinguish between funding for national institutions and regional expenditure.

Of the United Kingdom's 19 national museums, for example, ten are in London. The welcome support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for many of these should be separated from regional calculations.

The fund's support throughout the United Kingdom has helped museums large and small to develop capital projects which increase public access and benefit tourism and local and regional economies.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JOLL,
Chairman,
Museums and Galleries Commission,
16 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
April 18.

Defence of choirs

From Mr Bernard Haunch

Sir, Richard Morrison's tongue-in-cheek piece ("Please don't watch, it spoils the fun", April 19) would hardly have reconciled Channel 5 to its viewing figures. Neither would it have amused cathedral organists to see their choirs, which this organisation has been formed to support, described as one of those "cherished cultural institutions . . . happily ignored by the entire population".

Whilst it is true that many still know little or nothing of our great cathedral choirs, others are at last becoming aware of these jewels in their midst. Though Evensong may occasionally be sparsely attended, overall the number of worshippers taking part is on the increase; indeed, it can sometimes be difficult to find a seat.

Choral services, however, are not meant to be concerts. They are not competing for an audience in the manner of a television channel. Their prime function is to offer fitting praise to the Almighty and to assist the congregation in its devotions.

Our cathedral choirs are arguably the one certain thing in national life of which we may feel justifiably proud.

Yours faithfully,
B. L. HAUNCH
(Secretary),
Campaign for the Defence of the
Traditional Cathedral Choir,
17 Wigmore Street, W1.
April 19.

Counting them in

From Mr J. Arden-Davis, ACA

Sir, The seemingly endless numbers of accountants referred to by Mr J. M. Potter (letter, April 23) are, of course, marathon finishers in their own right, the only significant difference being that large quantities of pasta are consumed *after* completion of the accountancy exam marathon in the hunt for a girth to match the qualified accountant's prosperity.

As an aside, I understand that the correct distance for accountants running in the Marathon is whatever their clients would like it to be.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ARDEN-DAVIS,
79 Ranelagh Road,
East Ham, E6.
April 23.

Nesting habits

From Mr Phil R. Ridgway

Sir, We regularly have one or two pairs of house martins nesting in our stables. However, this year there is a group of three birds busily building a nest together.

Is this unusual? Should I just ignore them, seek the advice of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, or ask the clergy for guidance?

Yours sincerely,
PHIL RIDGWAY,
27 Naverne Meadows,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.
April 23.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 24: General Sir Charles Guthrie was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff and remained to Luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, this afternoon attended a Luncheon followed by the Annual General Meeting of King George's Fund for Sailors at the Mansion House, London EC2.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Cardiff Castle this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 24: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended the Royal Gala performance of "Miracles", a concert produced by London Musici with the Award, at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

April 24: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Royal Hussars, today visited Münster, Germany.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 24: The Prince of Wales today visited Cardiff and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR).

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, this afternoon toured the University of Wales's Glamorgan Building and met staff and students.

The Prince of Wales later visited the Old Library, St David's Hall, the Hayes, and met trustees of the Cardiff Old Library Trust and was briefed on plans to creat a centre for visual arts at the Old Library.

His Royal Highness, Patron, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, afterwards visited BBC Llandaff and watched a rehearsal of the orchestra.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 24: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Member of the Court of Assistants of The Haberdashers' Company, attended the Company's Golden Lecture, given by the Bishop of London at St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, London EC2, today.

Her Royal Highness subsequently joined the Court and Members of the Company for Luncheon at Goldsmiths' Hall, London EC2.

April 24: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Kensington Society, this evening attended the Annual General Meeting at 23 Kensington Square, London W8.

YORK HOUSE
April 24: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning attended a Britain Means Business Workshop on mobilising capital for South Africa, at the Mount Nelson Hotel and later made a tour of Robben Island and its museum.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended lunch with Mr Chris Nissen, Western Cape Provincial Minister for Economic Affairs, and later visited the Baygen clockwork radio factory.

The Duke of Kent this evening attended a British Telecom Global Challenge Round the World Yacht Race dinner at the residence of the British High Commissioner, Upper Hillwood Road, Bishopscourt, Cape Town.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, United Kingdom Committee for United Nations Children's Fund, this evening left London Heathrow airport for Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel-in-Chief, will attend the annual dinner of the Intelligence Corps at Painters' Hall at 7.05.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), will visit the First Battalion, Cinque Ports Training Area, Lydd Camp, Romney Marsh, at 10.00.

The Princess Margaret will attend a concert and dinner in aid of the St George's School, Windsor Castle, Development Campaign, at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, at 7.00.

Appointment

Mr Mungo Campbell, Assistant Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery of Scotland, has been appointed Deputy Director of the Hunterian Art Gallery at Glasgow University.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev James MacNaughton, Vicar, Amble: to be Team Rector, Cramlington (Newcastle).

The Rev Ian Pullett, Rector, Morton and Stonebroom: to be also Priest-in-charge, Shirland (Derby).

The Rev Julie Ramsbottom, Curate, Bray St Michael w Braywood: to be Rector, West Woodhay w Enborne, Hamstead Marshall, Inkpen and Combe (Oxford).

The Rev Shelagh Stacey: to be Priest-in-charge, Carleton and East Hardwick (Wakefield).

The Rev Tony Vigars, Vicar, Meltham (Wakefield): to be Vicar, St John and St Stephen, Reading (Oxford).

The Rev Christopher Walker, Vicar, St Stephen, Chatham: to be Rector, St Nicholas, Chislehurst (Rochester).

The Rev Dave Waller, Chaplain, University of Greenwich (Southwark): to be Priest-in-charge, St Matthew's, Yiewsley (London).

School news

Danes Hill School, Oxshott
Danes Hill School, Oxshott, Surrey, would be delighted to hear from former pupils who would be interested in receiving further information about the Danes Hill Golden Jubilee celebrations this summer. Please contact the Headmaster's Secretary on 01372 842346.

Giggleswick School
Summer Term began on Monday, April 21. Mr David Stockdale, QC, MA, has succeeded Lord Shuttleworth as Chairman of Governors. The Bishop of Bradford will take the Confirmation Service on Sunday, May 4. Speech Day will be on Saturday, May 24, when Mrs Julia Cleverdon, the Chief Executive of Business in the Community, will be the Guest of Honour. There will be a special Old Giggleswickian Reunion for 1965-74 Leavers on Saturday, May 17, and Old Giggleswickian Day will be on Saturday, July 5. The Chapel Choir will sing Brahms' Requiem in Bradford Cathedral on Sunday, July 6. Information on these events is available from the Headmaster's Secretary 01729 823545.

70th Harrogate Spring Flower Show

Daffodils come in from the cold to win

By Alan Toogood, Horticultural Correspondent

IT IS a difficult season for daffodil exhibitors, with flowering several weeks earlier than normal, yet a display of high quality daffodil blooms has been judged best exhibit at the 70th Harrogate Spring Flower Show, which opened yesterday.

Staged by J. Walker's Bulbs, of Holbeach, Lincolnshire, the 55 cultivars, held in cold storage prior to the show, include the new pure white small cupped "Carrara".

R.V. Roger, of Pickering, North Yorkshire, specialises in unusual and fancy daffodils. He is showing for the first time a split corona daffodil, "Dolly Mollinger", whose flowers look like a fried egg, and the highly fragrant *Narcissus Odoratus* "Camperneli Plenus".

The horticultural trade section, well supported by local nurseries, is strong on spring flowering woodland garden plants and alpines. An extensive display of these plants has been staged by Kettlesing Nurseries, of Kettlesing, Harrogate, and features meconopsis or Himalayan poppies, the familiar blue species plus rarities such as red flowered *Meconopsis Punicea* and diminutive *M. Delavayi* with violet coloured blooms.

The woodland gardens staged by the Harlow Carr botanical gardens, of Harrogate, feature foxgloves, which normally flower in summer. To get the plants in flower for this show involved forcing them in a warm greenhouse.

A garden created by the Great Houses and Gardens of Yorkshire group gives a taste of the horticulture, history and heritage which can be experienced at more than 35 historic venues throughout Yorkshire; and a Chinese inspired garden with western planting, by the Historic Gardens of Yorkshire Group acknowledges the international diversity of garden plants.

The exhibit of bulbs and other plants from Jacques Amand, of Stanmore, Middlesex, has a strong woodland garden theme and includes choice hardy orchids such as the brick red monkey orchid.

A number of out-of-season plants are featured, including delphiniums from C. and J. Parton of Methley, West Yorkshire. It takes great skill to get the summer flower perennials into bloom in April.

The aim of the North of England Bonsai Association, of York, formed two years ago, is to promote the art of bonsai. Their exhibit, assembled from private collections, is certainly eye-catching and features a 50-year-old Japanese maple, *Acer Palmatum* "Deshojo", with brilliant red foliage.

There is a good sprinkling of new plants at this show. One of the most unusual must be *Viola* "Stacey Proud" with gold variegated foliage, shown by Proud Plants, of Ainstable, Cumbria. It was discovered as a seedling on the nursery about three years ago.

Other highlights of the show, organised by the North of England Horticultural Society, includes the shows of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, the Daffodil Society and the Alpine Garden Society and a flower arrangement marquee.

The show, in the great Yorkshire showground, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, is open from 9.30am-6pm daily, closing on Sunday at 4.30pm.

David Shepherd, the artist, is 66 today

Birthdays today

Professor R.F. Boucher, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, UMIST, 57; Mr Eric Bristow, darts player, 40; Sir Robin Cater, former chairman, Distillers Company, 78; Mr Anthony Christopher, trade unionist, 72; Mr David de Peyer, former director-general, Cancer Research Campaign, 63; Mr Ellis Douek, otologist, 63; Sir Geoffrey Ellerton, former chairman, Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 77; Dr T.E. Faber, chairman, Geoffrey Faber Holdings, 70; Dr John Fox, medical statistician, 51; Lord Hayter, 86; Sir Paul Judge, former director general, Conservative Party, 48; Mrs Janet King, former Governor, Holloway prison, 47; the Earl of Lichfield, 58; Mr John V. Light, Rector, Edinburgh Academy, 49; Mr David Machin, Under Treasurer, Gray's Inn, 63; Lady Marre, former chairman, BBC and IBA Central Appeals Advisory Committee, 77; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Godfrey Milton-Thompson, 67; Judge Marian Norrie, 57; Mr Al Pacino, actor, 57; Judge Helen Paling, 64; Lord Skidelsky, 58; Sir Francis Graham-Smith, former Astronomer Royal, 74; Mrs Linda Stone, former president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 46; Mr Peter Sutherland, managing director, Goldman Sachs International, 51; Mrs V.E. Sutherland, diplomat, 58.

Legal appointment

Mrs Helen Mary Hughes to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

Memorial services

Earl of Portland
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Earl of Portland was held yesterday in Harrow School Chapel. The Rev James Power, School Chaplain, officiated. Lady Anna Bentinck, daughter, read *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran.

Mr Noël Diacono, Mr Vernon Sullivan, Mr James Lovelock and the Right Rev Kenneth Cragg gave addresses. Among others present were:

Jenifer Countess of Portland (widow), the Earl and Countess of Portland (son and daughter-in-law), Lady Sorrel Bentinck (daughter), Lady Brydgytte van der Wyck Bentinck (sister), Lady Alexandra Cavendish-Bentinck.

The Earl and Countess of Gainsborough, Mr Peregrine and Lady Maureen Fellowes, Mr William Parente, Mr Tony Armatrading and other members of the family and friends.

Mr Ralph W. Selby
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Ralph Walford Selby, former diplomat, was held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Rev Lesley Bryan officiated, assisted by the Rev Nigel O'Connor. Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Wynford read the lesson and Mrs Virginia Knowles, daughter, read *On his Blindness* by John Milton. Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea gave an address. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Birch and the Permanent Under Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Mr Francis Richards. Among others present were:

Contessa Pamela Cavazza and Mrs Cynthia Selby (daughters), Mr Geoffrey Knowles (son-in-law), Katie and Gemma Knowles and Jessica Reid (grandchildren), Mr David Reid, Lady Wynford, the Hon Mrs Signe Brandon, Lady Alexandra Roche, Sir John Smith, CH, Viscountess Esher, the Marchioness of Zetland and other members of the family.

Lord Savile, Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Wigram, Lady Pamela Humphrys, the Hon Diana Makgill, Sir David and the Hon Lady Roche, Lady Mackworth, Sir Douglas and Lady Henley, Sir Peter and Lady Scott, Sir Reginald and Lady Seconde, Dame Gillian Brown (Anglo-Norse Society), Sir Sydney Giffard, Sir William and Lady Harpham.

Mrs Nigel O'Connor, Mr Francis Tufton, Mr and Mrs Cecil Barclay, Mr Rodney Whitworth, Mr Michael Clark, Mrs Doris Liddle, Mr Brian Atkins, Mrs Basil Sanders, Mr Paul Lowery, Mr N J Travis, Mr J W Trigg, Mr and Mrs Evan James, Miss S Wyldbore-Smith, Mr David Bendall, Mr and Mrs Robert Tesh, Mr John G Taylor, Mr A H Reincke, Mrs C M A Mackintosh, Mrs S W Peck, Mrs I Whitworth, Major G Thorne, Mr Richard Reincke, Commander F N Ponsonby, Mr Rowland Hill, Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Burnaby-Atkins, Mrs Prunella Briance, Mrs C M Easter.

Lieutenant-Colonel C.J.E. Seymour (representing the Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel, Grenadier Guards), Mr Peter Nicholson (commodore, Royal Yacht Squadron), Mr Keith Shackleton (Society of Wildlife Artists) and Mrs Shackleton and many other friends and former colleagues.

Mr Jeremy Maas
A memorial service for Mr Jeremy Stephen Maas, author and art dealer, was held yesterday at St George's, Hanover Square. The Rev W.M. Atkins officiated.

Mrs Henry Strutt, daughter, read from the works of Joyce Grenfell, Mr Rupert Maas, son, read from the works of Stephen Spender, and Mr Jonathan Maas, son, also gave a reading. Mr Barry Humphries paid tribute and Mr Nicolas Barker gave an address.

University news

Manchester
The following to be Pro Vice-Chancellors for three years from September 1: Professor P D Gummett, Professor N H F Wilson. Professor Katharine M Perera has been re-appointed as Pro Vice-Chancellor for three years from September 1.

Appointments to chairs
John F Healey, Reader in Semitic Studies, to be Professor of Semitic Studies in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.
David H J Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology.
Lizbeth Stanley, Reader in Sociology and Director of Women's Studies, to be Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies in the Department of Sociology.
Valerie Elizabeth Newton, Reader in Audiological Medicine, to be Professor of Audiological Medicine in the School of Education.

Honorary and Visiting Appointments
Cliff Jones, Director, Applications Division at Harlequin Ltd and former Professor of Computer Science at the university, to be Honorary Professor in Computer Science for three years.
Nathan Efron, Professor of Clinical Optometry, Department of Optometry and Vision Studies, UMIST, to be Honorary Professor in Ophthalmology for three years in the first instance.
Christopher J Main, Honorary Reader in the Psychology of Rheumatic Diseases and Head of the Department of Behavioural Medicine at Hope Hospital, Salford, to be Honorary Professor of Rheumatology in the Faculty of Medicine for three years.
Tom A Hinchcliffe, retired managing director of the High Performance Technology Division, ICL, to be Honorary Visiting Professor in the Department of Computer Science for three years.
Jacques Durand, Professor of English Linguistics at the UFR des Études du Monde Anglophone, Université de Toulouse II, to be Honorary Professor in the Department of Linguistics for three years.
Michael G Walker, Consultant Vascular Surgeon, Manchester Royal Infirmary, to be Honorary Professor of Surgery for three years.
David Charlesworth, Consultant Vascular Surgeon at the University Hospital of South Manchester, to be Honorary Professor of Surgery for three years.
Michael Orme, Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Liverpool University and Director of Education and Training for the North West Regional Office of the NHS Executive, to be Honorary Visiting Professor in Medicine for three years.
John Howie, Professor of General Practice, Edinburgh University, and Chair of the Advisory Board of the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre to be Honorary Visiting Professor in the Centre for three years.
Richard V Abadi, Reader and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Optometry and Vision Science, UMIST, to be Honorary Reader in Ophthalmology for three years in the first instance.

Appointments
Peter Richard Kay to be Senior Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery.
William Crowther to be Lecturer in Engineering, Manchester School of Engineering.
Jonathan Kobine to be Lecturer in Experimental Physics, Department of Physics and Astronomy.
Maria-Ruth Morello to be Lecturer in Classics (Latin), in the Classics and History Section, Department of History.
Daniela Riccardi to be Lecturer in Molecular Physiology, School of Biological Sciences.
Anderson Joseph Ryan to be Lecturer in Cancer Studies, Department of Oncology.
Günther K H Zupanc to be Lecturer in Integrative Animal Biology, School of Biological Sciences.

Luncheon

HM Government
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House to bid farewell to the Ambassador of Panama, Señor Aquilino Boyd de la Guardia.

Service dinner

HAC
General Sir Michael Wilkes presided at the annual St George's dinner of the Honourable Artillery Company held last night at Armoury House. The Duke of Westminster proposed the toast "England". Major J N Phipson and Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, also spoke.

Dinners

Scriveners' Company
Mr Alderman Richard Nichols, Senior Alderman below the Chair, and Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, were the principal guests at a livery dinner of the Scriveners' Company held last night at Salters' Hall. Mr B.D. O'Meara, Master, presided.

Glaziers' Company
Mr M.C. Tosh, Master of the Glaziers' Company, with the Wardens and their ladies received members of the court and their guests at the St Mark's Day Quarter dinner held last night at Glaziers' Hall.

The Masters of the Bakers', Wax Chandlers' and Carpenter' Companies and the Warden of the Fellmongers' Company of Richmond, Yorkshire, were among the guests.

Glovers' Company
Mr Michael Down, Master of the Glovers' Company, presided at a dinner held last night at Middle Temple Hall to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the company's adopted Territorial Army Regiment and 40 years association of the regiment with the company.

The Common Serjeant of London, and the Masters of the Musicians', Framework Knitters' and Master Mariners' Companies were the principal guests.

Carmen's Company
Mr J.M.B. Gotch, Master of the Carmen's Company, presided at a dinner held last night at Painters' Hall. Sir Ralph Robins, Chairman of Rolls-Royce, Mr Robert McCartney, Centrex, and Major-General M.S. White, Director-General Logistic Support (Army) also spoke.

During the dinner the Master presented the Carmen's Sword of Honour for 1997 to Lieutenant C.T.G. Driver-Williams, Royal Logistics Corps, the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Award to Rolls-Royce for the development of the Trent engine and the Royal Logistic Corps Safety Award 1996 to Centrex for their imaginative new training programmes.

"Saints and Sinners" Club
Professor David Purdie, the Right Rev Lord Runcie, Mr John Mathew, QC, and Mr Gay Kindersley, Chairman of the "Saints and Sinners" Club, were the speakers at the annual dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Afterwards, Mr Kindersley installed Mr Jimmy Tarbuck as his successor.

Japan Society
The Ambassador of Japan, President of the Japan Society, attended the annual dinner held last night at the Four Seasons Hotel, Park Lane. Mr Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was the guest of honour. During the dinner Mrs Mary-Grace Browning and Mrs Masayo Kidani were presented with the society's Cortazzi awards by Sir John Whitehead, GCMG, CVO.

Luxembourg Society
Mr Oliver Miles, accompanied by Mrs Miles, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Luxembourg Society held last night at the Athenaeum Club. Mr Percy Grieve, QC, chairman, presided. The Ambassador of Luxembourg and Mme Weyland attended.

European-Atlantic Group
Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, President of the European-Atlantic Group, presided at a dinner-discussion held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel. Mr Richard Scriven, Chief Financial Officer, Corporation of London, was the speaker. The Ambassador of Finland, the High Commissioner for Singapore and other members of the Diplomatic Corps, civil servants, bankers and businessmen were among those present.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.D. Blake-James and Miss I.A. Lauzeral
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Dr and Mrs R.B. Blake-James, of Pocklington, Yorkshire, and Isabelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lauzeral, of France.

Mr A.D. Burnett and Miss A.V. Traill
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Burnett, of West Linton, Tweeddale, and Anne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Traill, of Tadworth, Surrey.

Mr P.R. Dennison and Miss V.P. Roskothen
The engagement is announced between Piers, son of Mr Richard Dennison and the late Mrs Caroline Dennison, of London, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Roskothen, of New York.

Mr E. Duggan and Miss M.C. Rice
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs E. Duggan, of London, and Mary, younger daughter of the late Mr E.J. Rice and of Mrs E.J. Rice, of Stoke Golding, Leicestershire.

Dr M.C.K. Hamilton and Dr J. Boardman
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Judge and Mrs John Hamilton, of Anstey, Hertfordshire, and Julie, only child of Mr and Mrs Peter Boardman, of Lytham, Lancashire.

Mr D.A.B. Hughes and Miss A-L.M. Houstoun
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Hughes, of Oxted, Surrey, and Annie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Willie Houstoun, of Rhubeg, Strone, Argyll.

Mr C. Sinclair and Miss C.L.J.Y. Benyon
The engagement is announced between Clayton, son of Mr and Mrs W. Sinclair, of Tamahere, New Zealand, and Camilla, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs T.Y. Benyon, of Adstock, Buckinghamshire.

Captain M.A. Somers and Miss J.E. Geldeard
The engagement is announced between Captain Mark Somers, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys), eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael I. Somers, of Surrey, and Joanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Brian Geldeard, of Pennal, Powys.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Edward II, reigned 1307-27, Caernarvon, 1284; Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector 1653-58, Huntingdon, 1599; Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, engineer, Hacqueville, France, 1769; John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement, Fairford, Gloucestershire, 1792; C.B. Fry, sportsman, Croydon, 1872; Walter de la Mare, poet and novelist, Charlton, Kent, 1873; Guglielmo Marconi, physicist, Nobel laureate 1909, Bologna, 1874; Victoria Alexandra Alice Mary, Princess Royal, York Cottage, Sandringham, 1897; Ed Murrow, broadcaster, North Carolina, 1908.

DEATHS: Torquato Tasso, poet, Rome, 1595; Anders Celsius, inventor of the Centigrade thermometer, Uppsala, Sweden, 1744; William Cowper, poet, East Dereham, Norfolk, 1800; Sir Carol Reed, film director, London, 1976.

Today is Anzac Day commemorating the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli, 1915.

Work began on the Suez Canal, 1859.

A paper published by geneticists James Watson and Francis Crick established the structure and function of DNA, 1953.

The Hubble space telescope was launched from the shuttle *Discovery*, 1990.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

But Scripture says, 'I believed, and therefore I spoke out' and we too, in the same spirit of faith, believe and therefore speak out. 1 Corinthians 4 : 13,14

BIRTHS

ASQUITH - On 22nd April 1997, to Fiona (née Macnaghten) and Martin, a daughter, Imogen Muriel, a sister for Eleanor.

CRUMMETT - On 18th April, to Skerry (née Hume-Wright) and Stephen, a daughter, Rebecca Claire.

DOWNE - On Monday 6th January at The Royal Free, Hampstead, to Lorna (née Taylor) and Jonathan, a daughter, Isabella Eleanor St. George.

DUKES - On 5th April 1997 in France, to Jane and Justin, a daughter, Lucy Jane MacAllister, sister to Joanna, Tom, Sam and Augustine.

FOORD - On April 21st, to Christina (née Lord) and Julian, a son, Hilary Robert.

GATWARD - On April 18th at Royal Surrey County, to Sarah (née Carsberg) and Neil, a daughter, Isobel Zoe, a sister for Tristan.

HILTON - On April 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Julie and Spence, a son, Alwyn Rhys, a partner in crime for Bryn and Gareth.

HOWES - On April 20th 1997, to Karen and Andrew, a daughter, Isabella Catherine Sutherland, a beautiful sister for Georgina.

KNOWLES - On April 22nd 1997, to Clare (née Recordon) and Jonathan, a son, Hannibal.

MATTHEWS - On April 21st at The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Helen (née Morgan) and Tim, a son, William Thomas Morgan, a brother for Lydia.

McCORMICK - On April 23rd 1997 at the University of Michigan Hospital, to John and Jan, a son, Aidan James Fleming, a brother for Sophie and Lily.

SYKES - On 23rd April, to Susannah (née Lawton) and James, a son, Matthew Oliver.

TANNER - On 20th April at St Marys Hospital, to Victoria (née Wates) and James, a daughter, Lara Theresa Annette.

VOICE - To Sally and Michael on 21st April a beautiful son, Cameron, a brother for Kerry.

DEATHS

ARCHER - John Cerckel peacefully passed away on 23rd April after a courageous struggle against illness. Beloved husband of Monique and devoted father of Charles-René and Alix. A funeral service will be held at the Church of St Cosmus & Damian in The Blean on Tuesday 29th April at 11 am. Flowers and any enquiries to C.W. Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors (01227) 463508.

BAGNALL - Richard, on April 22nd, peacefully in Portugal. Dearly beloved husband of Irene, most wonderful father of Tim and Sue and best gramps to Jo, Tori, Robert, Jonty, Christopher and Pips. Loved and respected by all who knew him. Service of Thanksgiving in England will be announced later.

BLACKBURN - On April 24th 1997. Peacefully in his sleep, Alan aged 53 of Earsham, Norfolk. Much loved by all who knew him. Funeral Service at All Saint's Church, Earsham on Monday April 28th at 11 am, followed by interment in the churchyard. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Cancer Research c/o Cossey Funeral Services, 12 Chaucer Street, Bungay, Suffolk.

BUTCHER - Malcolm aged 52, died suddenly and unexpectedly on 9th April. Lecturer at Bournemouth and Poole College. Beloved only son of Marjorie.

CARLENE - Margaret, widow of Dr. Piers Carlene, dearly loved mother of Linda and Gillian, loving grandmother of Jonathan, Amanda and Claire, on April 23rd 1997 after a short illness courageously borne. Funeral Service takes place at Bovey Tracey Methodist Church at 10.30 am on Tuesday 29th April, followed by cremation at Exeter. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to The British Heart Foundation or Cancer Research c/o Coombes & Sons, 73 Fore Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon.

DARBY - Robert Sinkler peacefully on April 23rd. The Funeral will be held at Dingestow Parish Church, Monmouthshire, 11.30 a.m. on Monday April 28th. Donations if wished to Alzheimer Disease Society, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH.

COMPTON - Denis Charles Scott Compton CBE died 23rd April aged 78. Beloved husband of Christine and father of sons Brian, Patrick, Richard and daughters Charlotte and Victoria. Will be very sadly missed by family, friends, cricket lovers and soccer fans everywhere. Private family funeral will be held. No flowers please, but donations to the Middlesex CCC Centenary Youth Trust would be appreciated. Memorial service will be arranged later.

DRYDEN - John Richard Martin suddenly at the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, on 22nd April. No flowers please.

DUFF - Suddenly but peacefully at Everest Base Camp on 23rd April, Malcolm R.D. Duff aged 43, treasured husband of Liz of Culross, Fife.

FARRANT - Jean. Adored wife, mother, stepmother and grandmother. Suddenly on 21st April at home. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Crawley, Hampshire on Friday 2nd May 1997 at 3pm. Enquiries to Will Case & Partners telephone: (01722) 414521.

FINCHAM - Angela Madalaine, beloved younger daughter of Paul and Elizabeth Fincham on 22nd April, unexpectedly at The William Harvey Hospital. Cremation at Barham, 11 am Friday 2nd May. Family flowers only: donations if desired to Trees for Life, c/o F.P. Wood, 21 Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1QN (01233) 620109.

HAYDEN - William Frederic on April 20th 1997 after a long illness, beloved husband of Hilda Mary. Private cremation, no service, no flowers at his request. Donations if wished to: Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund c/o W. Garstin (0171) 935-4868.

HESTER - Margaret, aged 80, died peacefully on 22nd April. Wife of the late Jack Hester, much loved mother of Carole and grandmother of Charlie and Sarah. Funeral Service to be held at Christ Church, Victoria Road, W8, on Tuesday 29th April at 2pm. Funeral Directors: J.H. Kenyon, tel: (0171) 937-0767.

HOBSON - On April 22nd, peacefully at home after a brief illness, Barbara beloved wife of the late John and mother of Nicholas, Timothy, Belinda and Jonathon, and much loved grandmother. Memorial Service at All Saints Church, Thurlestone, Friday May 2nd at 3 pm. Flowers or donations if desired, to John D. Andrews & Son, 119 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 1AL.

HOGHTON - On April 23rd 1997 peacefully at The Churchill Hospital, Oxford, Eva Hoghton. Beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Jesus College Chapel on Thursday May 1st at 2 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

HOLTOM - Suddenly and unexpectedly on April 22nd, Tim, much loved by Isabel and family. Memorial Service on Thursday May 1st at Harbledown Church, near Canterbury at 3 pm.

JENNINGS - John (Jack) suddenly and unexpectedly on 21st April. Loved and already missed by his wife Jacky and all his family. No flowers. Donations to Cancer Research or British Heart Foundation. Ashes to be scattered on the French Alps at his request.

LARNER - Peacefully on 22nd April 1997 after a long illness, James, beloved husband of Margot and father of Dennis. Cremation on 2nd May 1997 at Cheltenham Crematorium at 3.30 pm. Donations for Leukaemia Research and enquiries to Selim Smith, 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, Glos., tel: (01242) 525383.

LAWS - Wilfred of Mill Hill, passed away on 22nd April 1997. Will be sadly missed by wife Maggie and members of the family. Funeral will be held at Hendon Crematorium, off Holders Hill Road, on 28th April 1997 at 11 am.

LEWIS - On April 22nd, 1997, Daphne Constance (née Mackrill) aged 82. Darling wife of Theo, happily married for over 55 years and much loved mother of Caroline. Funeral service 12.30 Wednesday, 30th April at St. Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour. Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Enquiries R. Locke & Son 01295 685274.

MASON - On April 21st suddenly in hospital Reverend David John aged 54. Chaplain to the Middlesex Hospital. Requiem at 11 am on Thursday May 1st at St Pancras, Euston Road, London. Cremation in Portsmouth. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Leverton & Sons, (0171) 387-6075.

PARKER - Ralph Ernest suddenly on 20th April 1997 in his 90th year. Service at St Mary the Virgin, Datchet, Thursday May 1st at 3.15 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations to Church funds invited in lieu.

PEDDIE - Alexandra, widow of Graham Peddie, died peacefully at home on 23rd April. Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium 2 pm 2nd May. Family flowers only.

PERRY-ALDWORTH - Sam William Prittie on 16th April peacefully at Gotton Manor aged 94. Beloved husband of the late Dorothy and much loved father of Janet and Steph. Grandfather of Philippa, Ben, Julian and Katrina and great-grandfather of Freddie, Jack, Natasha and Sam. The private funeral has already taken place.

ROTHNIE - Sir Alan Keir, KCVO, CMG, LLD, peacefully in his sleep on 24th April. Much loved husband of Anne, father of Delia, Keir and James, and grandfather; devoted friend of his wider family. Funeral to be held at St Mary's Church, Rolvenden, Kent at 2.45 pm on Friday 2nd May. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal British Legion, c/o T.W. Foggle & Son, 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6QU.

SHARROCK - On April 23rd peacefully Betty aged 78 years, much loved mother of Deborah, Jane and Peregrine. Requiem Mass at St Aloysius Church, Oxford, on Thursday May 1st at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to J.B. Shakespeare Ltd., 67 George Street, Croydon.

SHEARER - Peacefully, after a short stay in hospital, on 24th April, James Francis Shearer C.B.E., aged 84, husband of Judy, father of Richard, Anthony and Bridgett and grandfather of Georgette, Nicholas, Charles, Juliet, Lauretta, Camilla and Oliver. Family service.

STOKES - Peta Joan died Saturday 19th April of a grave illness bravely borne. Beloved wife of Freddie and mother of Robert. Funeral Service at Oxford Crematorium and Garden of Remembrance, Headington, Oxford on Tuesday 29th April at 12 noon. Family flowers by request. Donations may be made to Macmillan Nurses c/o Funeral Director E. Taylor & Son, 19A Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon, tel: (01993) 842421.

SWANBOROUGH - John died peacefully in hospital on April 18th 1997 after a short illness. Beloved husband of Philippa, adored stepfather of Dawn, Hilary and Robert and his six stepgrandchildren. Cremation has taken place. Service of Thanksgiving at Kingswood Meeting House, Packhorse Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham on Saturday May 17th at 2.30 pm. No flowers please by special request but donations can be sent to the Oncology/Palliative Care Fund c/o Sue Sharp, Macmillan Nurse, Worcester Royal Infirmary, Ronkswood Branch, Worcester WR5 1HN.

WOODACRE - Albert on 22nd April 1997, beloved husband of Lilian, father of Ian James and Sandra Philippa and father-in-law of David. Family funeral, family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research c/o Mr Dawson (01253) 596754.

WRIGHT - George Wilfrid aged 87 years peacefully at home in Buxton on 21st April. Funeral All Saints Church, Hassop, Monday 28th April 2.30 pm.

WRAIGHT - Sir John Richard Wraight C.M.G. K.B.E. on April 23rd 1997, suddenly but peacefully, in St Mary's Hospital, London. Sadly missed by his loving wife Maggie. Funeral Service: West London Crematorium, Harrow Road, London, NW10 at 11.30 am Friday 2nd May. Flowers and enquiries please, to J.H. Kenyon, (0171) 937-0757.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

DALLMEYER - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of the late James Dallmeyer will be held at the Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, on Monday 19th May at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

GALLIPOLI DAY - On this anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli, 1915, we remember with pride all those who served, and especially those who did not return. Gallipoli Association, Membership Secretary, 9 Garner Court, Marlow, SL7 2AN.

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PYEFINCH - Kate Madeleine. In loving memory of Kit on the anniversary of her birthday on 25th April, 1904. Joan.

TAIT - In loving memory of Dorothy M. Tait who died April 25th 1985 aged 91. Cyril.

WITT - Dr. Rex died in Athens April 24th 1980. Loved and respected. Mary, Richard and Clemency.

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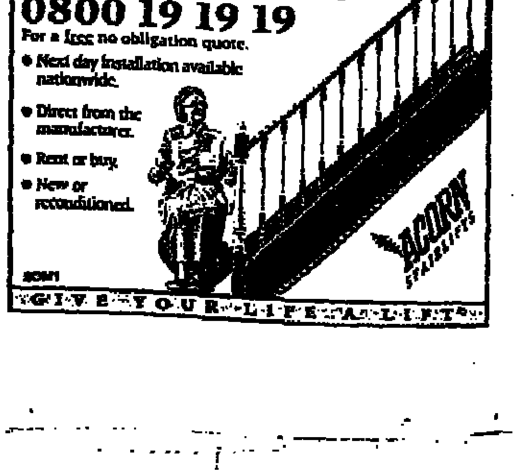

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OBITUARIES

DR ROBERT SIMPSON

Dr Robert Simpson, former Stormont MP and Minister of Community Relations in Northern Ireland, 1969-71, died on April 8 aged 73. He was born on July 3, 1923.

A MAN who embodied several apparent contradictions, Robert Simpson was a light-hearted and talkative Ulsterman; a moderate and tolerant Unionist politician; and a man who spent his whole life living and working in the same town — both as general practitioner and journalist — without a trace of parochialism. In the event, in the climate of the times, his community relations appointment presented him with an impossible task, although he did his best to soften the fierce antagonisms existing between the two religious communities.

He was born in Ballymena, Co Antrim, the son of a Presbyterian small farmer with 50 acres at Craigbilly. As the elder son he should have inherited the farm, but he had no penchant for handling the horses with which the farm's work was entirely done. He was educated at Ballymena Academy and Queen's University, Belfast, from which he qualified in medicine in 1946.

Simpson's political career began in 1953 when he became Member of Parliament for Mid-Antrim at Stormont, the Parliament for Northern Ireland. He was to hold the constituency for nearly twenty years, through a time of great upheaval in the province. He was a Unionist who was subject to the party whip, but he had a certain independence of spirit. Where his views diverged from the official Unionist line on matters of principle, Simpson did not hesitate to take issue with his party publicly.

This was particularly notable in the one person, one vote campaign for local government elections, a notion which in Northern Ireland did not become law until 1969 (until then the owners of businesses had had a property vote in addition to their individual vote, a system which had been abolished in mainland Britain in 1948). Throughout the long debate on the issue, Phelim O'Neill (later Lord Rathcavan) and Simpson were the only Unionist MPs to speak strongly and publicly in favour of one person, one vote — Simpson believed in it firmly as a matter of principle, not pragmatism.

It was Simpson's independence of mind and fairness which made him an ideal candidate for the new Ministry of Community Relations. On his appointment as Minister in 1969 he immediately chose to resign from the Orange and Masonic Orders because he saw membership of both as being incompatible with impartiality and conciliation. It was an unprecedented step for a Unionist MP. Community Relations appeared to be and in fact was an impossible portfolio, as Simpson recognised in resigning in 1971. But in his two years in the office he worked hard to bridge the religious divide.

While he was Minister he convened a group of talented artists and academics to address the issue of community relations because he felt that the arts and media had a significant role to play. This group included Rowel Friers the cartoonist, Estyn Evans, George Thompson, David Hammond and the young Seamus Heaney.

Simpson and Heaney recognised that though Protestant and Catholic they had much in common; they were near-contemporaries brought up on small farms not thirty miles apart; they had both found that their inclinations and ambitions lay outside the farm, but had retained their closeness to the countryside in which they were brought up; and they both loved language. Simpson was aware throughout his life how much common ground there was between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. He often said "We are all Ulster people and we must learn to live together, because we have nowhere else to go."

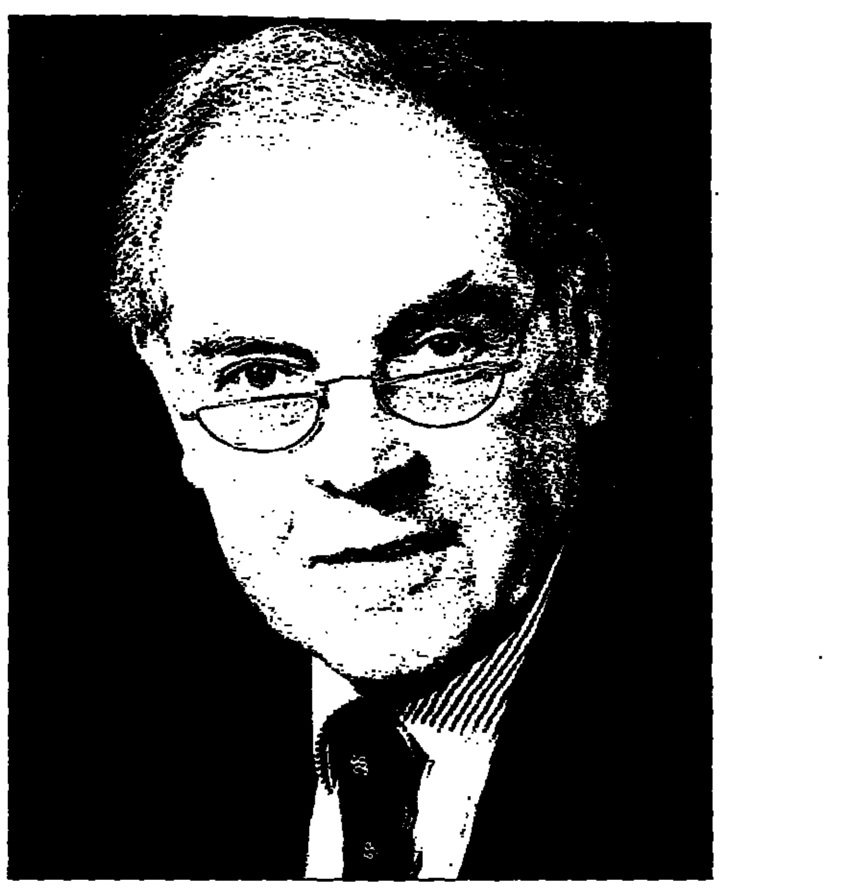
Simpson was a shrewd political analyst who was among the first to recognise that Bloody Sunday (Londonderry, 1972) was not merely another horrible event but a watershed in Ulster politics. But he felt that attempts to establish a moderate centre party, in the form of the Alliance Party, were doomed, and he was not surprised by the subsequent prorogation of Stormont. He could see no political solution to the problems of Northern Ireland and it was without regret that he quit politics in 1972, never again to take an active role.

In addition to his political career, Simpson was a doctor and a journalist. A general practitioner in Ballymena for nearly forty years, he loved his work and he was devoted to the interests of his patients. On his retirement from the National Health Service in 1986 he continued to work as an occupational health physician until his death. He was a prolific freelance journalist for most of his life, writing about travel, medicine and agriculture for the specialist, regional and national presses. He wrote medical columns which were syndicated weekly in more than a hundred newspapers in the UK and abroad under the names of Dr John Barfoot and Dr David Blue.

Simpson had many interests. He travelled widely throughout his life, and was always planning his next trip. He created an admired garden at his Ballymena home, with a fine collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. He was passionate about trees and was a founder-member of the Irish Tree Society, together with Thomas Pakenham, the novelist Jennifer Johnston and others. In the last ten years of his life he also planted an arboretum at his home with more than 250 unusual species.

Music was another of his pleasures. This led to his involvement in the Ballymena Musical Festival, an annual competitive *Feis* in the well-established Ulster tradition. Simpson was an energetic and optimistic man with a gift for promoting team spirit, and he used these qualities for the benefit of the Feis, in both fund-raising and organisation. He was convinced that the festival had tremendous value as an institution in which Protestants and Catholics had participated and co-operated harmoniously for decades and was determined to do what he could to ensure its survival.

He married Dorothy Strawbridge in 1954. They were devoted companions. She survives him, as do their two sons and one daughter.



MICHAEL MACOUN

Michael Macoun, CMG, OBE, QPM, former colonial policeman and overseas police adviser, died on March 25 aged 82. He was born on November 27, 1914.

IN A career largely spent overseas, Michael Macoun policed the End of Empire in East Africa before, in retirement, being appointed Inspector-General of Police for the the Dependent Territories. In his period in Africa he was head of the Ugandan police at the time of independence, and continued as Inspector-General for the first two years of self-rule.

As Inspector-General of Police in Dependent Territories, after 1965, he spent the next dozen years overseeing the work of police forces from Hong Kong to the Caribbean. In a highly colourful career in parts of the world where orthodox solutions to problems were not expected — and would seldom have worked — his flexible and fun-loving spirit was generally in its element.

Michael John Macoun was born in China, where his father was commissioner of Chinese Maritime Customs in Nanking. With the country rent by civil war he was brought up in an atmosphere of unrest and witnessed a good deal of fighting between rival warlords.

When old enough, he was brought to England to go to school at Stowe; from there he read history at Oxford, after which he took a diploma in English language and literature at Munich University. It was while there that he was introduced by Unity Mitford to Hitler, while the latter was having lunch. Declining to give the Nazi salute, as was universally expected, he was nevertheless told by the Führer how glad he was to see Anglo-Saxon youth visiting the the Third Reich. Macoun briefly worked in Budapest and when in Vienna helped Jewish friends smuggle their valuables out of the country.

In 1938 he joined the police and, after attending the Metropolitan Police College at Hendon, found himself sent out to Tanganyika on the eve of the Second World War. A German colony from the 1880s until the end of the First World War, Tanganyika still at that time had a population which was more German than British, and many of these German nationals were Nazi sympathisers. Sent to "purge the Nazi menace" Macoun found his German extremely useful in trying to ascertain who was likely to pose a threat and who was more likely to be a victim of Nazism.

Sympathisers with Nazism were sent to internment camps elsewhere in Africa, while non-Nazis (who were mainly Jews) were left to go free.

As the war progressed he found himself increasingly busy coping with floods of Italian PoWs for whom camps had to be found in East Africa, and with a stream of Poles, released from imprisonment by the Russians and now making their way to North Africa via Persia and India.

Macoun stayed with the Tanganyika Police until 1958 with a two-year break in the middle of the war when he was stationed in Kenya with the Combined Services Security Bureau. After returning to his police duties in 1944 he was soon promoted to superintendent and by the mid-1950s had become acting commissioner of the Tanganyika Police.

In 1959 he was appointed Inspector-General of Police in Uganda. He saw earlier than most that independence could not be far off and that Ugandans needed to be trained and promoted within the force. Unlike some colonial officials, he was highly sympathetic towards African aspirations. When he took over in 1959 his force was officered entirely by whites; by independence day in 1962 it was substantially under African command. Macoun continued as Inspector-General until 1964.

Police work in Africa included quelling and containing revolts, strikes, army mutinies, cattle raiding, tribal conflicts, attempted coups and of course, normal police work. It also involved diplomacy and he mediated in several disputes between neighbouring Congo and Sudan. He excelled at these challenges.

His colonial police career over, Macoun returned to Britain and for the year 1965 was on the directing staff of the Police College, Bramshill. But he was soon to be back in harness in something like his old sphere when, in 1967, after joining the Foreign Office he was appointed Inspector-General of Police for the Dependent Territories, at the same time serving as Overseas Police Adviser to the Foreign Secretary.

This involved much high-level diplomacy and work and a great deal of travel. He knew policemen and police forces from Hong Kong to the Falklands, Anguilla to Tonga. His ability to mix effortlessly with all ranks and races and his charm and wit served him well.

He retired from the Foreign Office in 1975 and took on a directorship of Control Risks, and various advisory assignments. He also assisted the Bodleian Library at Oxford where he worked collating colonial history materials. Last year he published his autobiography, *Wrong Place, Right Time: Policing the End of the Empire*.

Michael Macoun's sense of fun, his (sometimes risqué) humour, and the excellent nature of his company attracted many, especially younger, people. He loved a party and a drink or two at the club or the pub. He liked to meet new people and fell into conversation with complete strangers, with ease. His steely blue eyes, the "Macoun stare", was attractive to many but could be frightening to those who contravened the law.

He is survived by his wife Geraldine, who came from a prominent Kenya pioneer family, and by two sons.

GORDON STEPHENSON

Professor Gordon Stephenson, CBE, architect and city planner, died on March 29 aged 88. He was born on June 6, 1908.

GORDON STEPHENSON was a key figure in town planning during the postwar years. As chief planner for the then newly established Ministry of Town and Country Planning, he was seconded to assist Sir Patrick Abercrombie on the Greater London Plan, as well as working on the designs for the New Town of Stevenage. For the last 40 years of his life, however, he was based in Perth, Australia, where he guided development not only of this city but also of Canberra, Sydney and Christchurch, New Zealand. He was appointed Professor of Architecture at the University of Western Australia.

Born in a suburb of Liverpool, Gordon Stephenson studied at Liverpool University's School of Architecture. He proved an outstanding student, sharing most of the prizes with his fellow student William (later Lord) Holford, and graduating with first-class honours in 1930. He then studied for two years in Paris — they were the best years of his education, he later said, and had included two months in the studios of le Corbusier.

In 1932 he returned to Liverpool where he taught at the School of Architecture until 1936 when he became a Commonwealth Fellow at the Masschusetts Institute of Technology.

Stephenson taught at the Architectural Association School in London from 1938 but, with the outbreak of war, went to work with Holford, building ordnance factories. It was dull work but an excellent introduction to fast building.

In 1942 the Government was already setting up the machinery for postwar reconstruction. The Ministry of Town and Country Planning was established in 1942 with a planning technique division led by William Holford. Stephenson was his deputy and was to become his successor.

However; only a year or two after producing the plans for the New Town of Stevenage — for which, much later, he was appointed CBE in 1967 — Stephenson decided to leave the Ministry. He had been offered the post of Lever Professor of Civic Design at the University of Liverpool. While in this position he designed the new departmental building, revised the course, revived and edited the *Town Planning Review* and paid a visit to Australia to initiate a regional plan for Perth, to which he decided to return.

But in 1953 he was invited to chair the department of city and regional planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He accepted. However, he was refused a visa by the US authorities.

Stephenson had visited the Soviet Union as a young man in the 1930s. He had also worked as secretary of the Liverpool committee for the relief of victims of German Fascism. This was enough in the McCarthy era to raise doubts about his anti-communist credentials.

So instead Stephenson remained in Perth until 1955, when he moved to Canada where he became Professor of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Toronto. He returned to Perth, however, after five years, to become consultant architect and Foundation Professor of Architecture at the University of Western Australia. His autobiography *On a Human Scale: a Life in City Planning* was published in 1992. It provides a fascinating insider's view of his work. But of his several publications perhaps the most fascinating was the 1995 pamphlet *Compassionate Town Planning*. In 60 pages it gives a succinct history of planning in Britain from the Public Health Act of 1848 to the unleashing of "market forces" since 1979.

His wife, whom he met when he was a Commonwealth Fellow in America, predeceased him, dying in 1979, and he is survived by his three daughters.

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Scheme: Regulating
Reference: ML/14786/CD(Ldn)
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at the office of Allan Jay Paine & Co. 273 Green Lanes London N13 4XE, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House 57-60 Haymarket London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPERIAL College of Science, Technology and Medicine is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached in principle for the formal amalgamation of the Wynn Institute for Metabolic Research into the Imperial College School of Medicine as the Wynn Department of Metabolic Medicine.

ST. JUDE Grateful thanks for prayers answered.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS
need holidays, so do their families. Before planning your own holidays this year, please spare more than a thought for those children who without your help will never get away at all.
Donations urgently needed by
The British Kidney Patient Association,
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B.K.P.A.

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MARION WELCHMAN

Marion Welchman, MBE, co-founder of the British Dyslexia Association, died on April 19 aged 81. She was born on June 6, 1915.

IN THE early days of her quest to understand dyslexia, Marion Welchman was dismissed by many as "that fussy mother from Bath". But she was resolute. Her son, Howard, had been experiencing great difficulties in learning and she was determined to help him.

Dyslexia, then, was not widely recognised as it is today. It was largely through Marion Welchman's dedication and persistence that awareness of it was raised and the British Dyslexia Association founded. She was appointed MBE in 1992.

Marion Eves, as she was before her marriage, studied nursing at Cardiff Royal Infirmary before going on, during the Second World War, to work in Occupational Health at Westinghouse in Chippenham. There she met and married Denis Welchman.

Their son was dyslexic and she embarked on what was to become a lifelong quest to help him and those who suffered similar problems. Hearing of the Orton Society in America and the methods they advocated for teaching dyslexics, she arranged in 1969 for Sally Childs, a pioneering American teacher to come over to Britain. A specialised teacher training course was launched and many who attended it were to go on to become leading experts in the field.

Living in Bath by this time, she set up the first of many local associations for the study of dyslexia which led to the founding of the British Dyslexia Association in 1972. She travelled throughout the world. She was a member of the Orton Society's council of advisers. She was invited to the first meeting of the Singapore Dyslexia Association and supported the foundation of a similar organisation for Europe. She organised the first international conference on dyslexia in Bath in 1989 and only last month was still taking an active interest in the fourth such conference.

Until the end of her life she remained an innovative and inspiring force in the field. Outside her work she was devoted to her family and friends — she was amusing and irreverent company. But in her spare time she was also a talented amateur silversmith and dressmaker.

Marion Welchman is survived by her two daughters and by her son.

ON THIS DAY

April 25, 1930

The FA Cup Final in 1910 resulted in a draw between Newcastle United and Barnsley, but the comments on London by some of the Barnsleyites after the game were both lively and frank. "There's not a happy faace in the streets . . . Why can't they be neighbourly?"

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP.

At a guess 80,000 persons, more than half of them from the North of England, assembled at the Crystal Palace on Saturday afternoon to see Newcastle United and Barnsley play a drawn game — one goal all — in the Final Tie of the Football Association Cup competition.

It cannot be said that the football was either scientific or artistic. Except during the last quarter of an hour — when the Newcastle men, the majority of whom possess International caps, played up to their reputation and sustained their attack in a clever and resourceful style — the worst faults of modern professional football were glaringly obvious. The whistle was sounded every minute for free kicks, penalties for apparently deliberate breaches of the rules; the players on either side were constantly appealing with arms uplifted to the sky, as though they were members of a Greek chorus beseeching Zeus to hurl his thunderbolts, or at any rate send a rainstorm. Stoppages for minor injuries were far too frequent; it is not easy to understand why the game should be suspended by the referee merely because a large, able-bodied man is winded or gets a trifling hack. Really the cockering of the modern professional is becoming ridiculous. Again, the ball was perpetually in the air, even the half-backs kicking too hard and too high in a manner which, if they had been playing for a Public School, would have caused them to be severely rebuked by their captain or even dropped for a match or two.

Partly because of the haphazard kicking of the half-backs, but chiefly because of their own inability either to pass accurately or try a little dribbling, both sets of forwards were singularly ineffectual during the greater part of the game. From beginning to end there were not more than four or five hard and well-directed shots at goal, and not a single instance of the long-distance drive from the half-back line.

THE EXODUS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Drifting with the crowd of holiday-makers back to London, the writer found himself in a carriage with a number of Barnsley folk. One of them thought there was "too much prevarication" about the Newcastle forward play, which was rather a good way of putting it. When the train stopped at Balham another exclaimed, "Ba-laam! Why I thowt it were i' Egypt." They chaffed the people waiting on the suburban platforms in the quaintest fashion. One man turned his back disdainfully, and was commended for so doing because "all tha' good looks are on the back o' tha' yed". They are natural humorists, these tough, stout-hearted colliers and factory hands who wear no collars. One of the lassies complained (in the slow, sweet voice of a cushat-dove) of the manner and looks of London people. "They don't know English i' Loondon," she said, "an' stare at us like we was pot-cats" (the invariable ornaments of the mantelpiece in a parlour of the Middle North), "and there's not a happy faace in the streets. Why can't they be neighbourly?" "Nobody's neighbours i' Loondon," said her young man. "Tha's coom to wrong shop for that, lass." The holiday had pleased them "up to t' mark", but they were manifestly homesick for the liberties of Barnsley, a little city, but their own.

NEWS

Tories condemn Blair's 'lies'

■ Tony Blair was accused of telling "bare-faced, despicable lies" yesterday as the general election campaign degenerated to a level of bitterness and abuse rarely seen in British politics.

Stung by claims by the Labour leader that the Tories intended to abolish the state pension, the Prime Minister last night led a barrage of attacks. John Major said that the Labour leadership were "plain liars". Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, accused Mr Blair of lying over pensions and VAT. **Pages 1, 9-16, 22, 23**

Woman, 63, is oldest to have baby

■ A 63-year-old Californian who lied about her age to get fertility treatment became the world's oldest woman on record to have a baby. The unidentified Filipino mother's 6 lb 5 oz daughter was delivered safely .... **Page 1**

Roman villa found

What may may be the largest late Roman villa in Britain has been discovered on a building site near Swindon .... **Page 1**

Yellow peril

There was sweet revenge for Britain's motorists when George Musgrave fell victim to his own invention, the yellow line. **Page 1**

Widowers' battle

Two widowers have lodged claims against the Government after being denied payments and allowances available only to bereaved women. The Treasury says giving equal rights could cost £490 million a year ... **Page 2**

Children cheat death

Two children escaped death by minutes when a 100ft-deep hole opened up in the garden of their home. The boy and girl had just left their sandpit when the ground slipped into a 30ft-wide water-filled gap .... **Page 3**

Revenge is brief

A woman who found the lover she met through a dating agency was married is threatening the agency with legal action. She also sewed the words "lying bastard" into a pair of his underpants ...... **Page 5**

Charity payout

Charities are paying huge salaries to executives recruited to run them as successful businesses, a survey has found. The best paid received £192,000 last year **Page 6**

Housing benefit

A former secretary planned and built a £200,000 five-bedroom house while living in a housing association flat and claiming rent benefit .... **Page 7**

Malnourished Britons

Many British children are threatened with malnutrition in the next century and many people on low incomes are eating more poorly now than in the 1980s, two reports claim .... **Page 8**

Accord limits troops

The presidents of Russia, China and three Central Asian republics signed an agreement limiting troop numbers in their border regions .... **Page 17**

Bones of contention

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute has accused a British university of borrowing the remains of nine flying reptiles from the Jurassic era and refusing to return them .... **Page 17**

Bomb trial warning

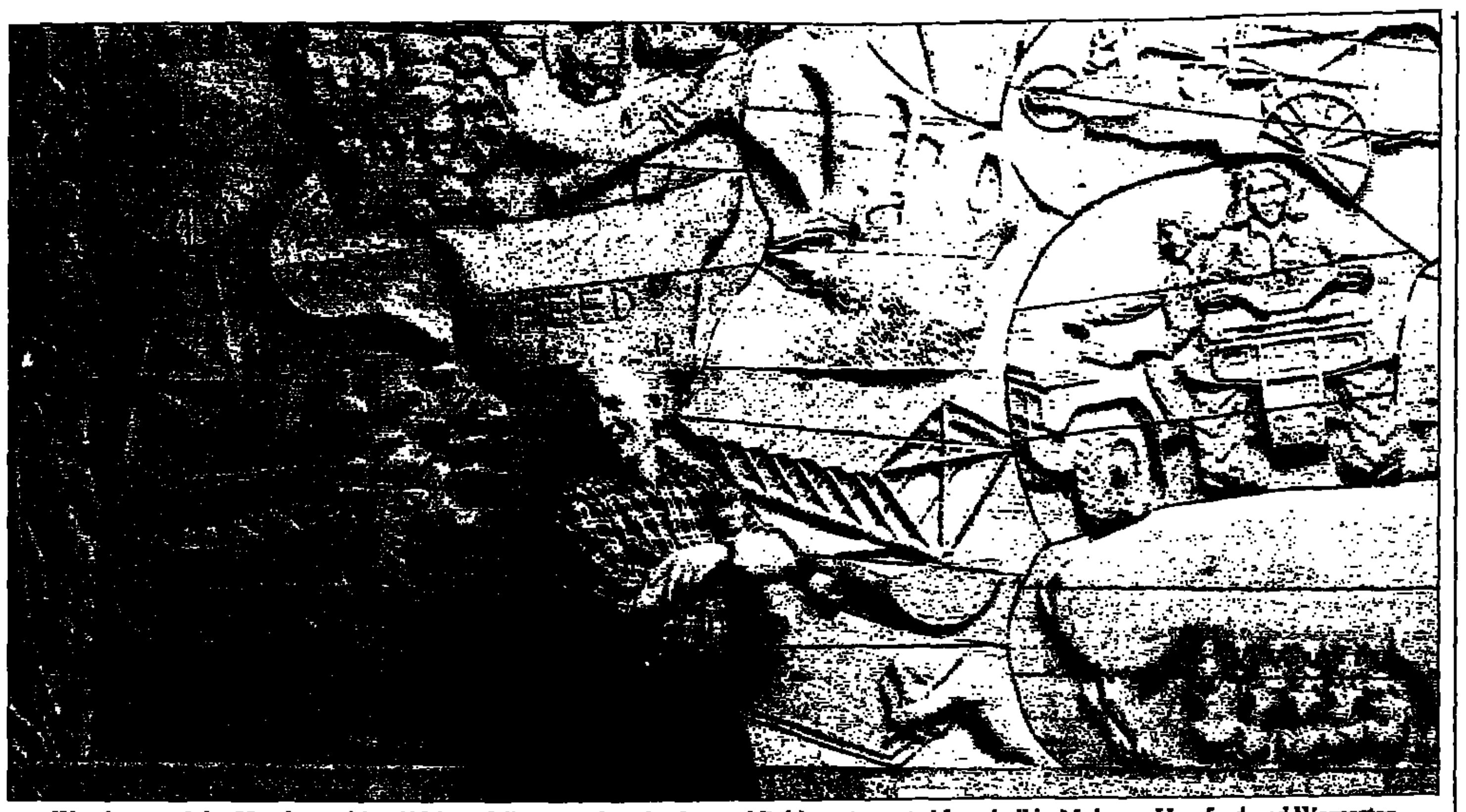
The trial of the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing opened in earnest with warnings to the families of victims that testimony would include graphic and chilling evidence .... **Page 18**

Missile menace

Cruise missiles could become the favourite weapon of rogue states, creating a "major security challenge" for the West, a British defence institute says .... **Page 19**

TV addicts urged to kick the habit

■ Television viewers were urged to place their television sets in the coldest and most uncomfortable room in their homes for the start of Turn Off TV Week. The pressure group White Dot wants addicts to kick their habit for seven days and devote leisure time to more creative pursuits. The groups says the prevalence of television is eroding family life .... **Page 5**



Wood carver John Harrison with a 60ft by 14ft jigsaw, said to be the world's biggest, created for a hall in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester

BUSINESS

Co-op: Andrew Regan and David Lyons ditched their bid to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society after losing the support of Nomura, the Japanese bank .... **Page 27**

Laura Ashley: Shares in Laura Ashley plunged almost 30 per cent after the company said that this year's profits will be hit by a decision to sell off spring and summer clothing at discounts.......... **Page 27**

Barclays: The bank has told customers that it is not preparing to have retail banking in euros ready for early monetary union .. **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 0.8 points to close at 4388.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 99.3 to 99.6 after a rise from $1.6233 to $1.6265 and from DM2.7807 to DM2.7927 .... **Page 30**

SPORT

Football: Manchester United are likely to scour Europe for a new striker this summer after their failure to reach the final of the European Cup........................ **Page 46**

Cricket: Hugh Morris, of Glamorgan, scored a double century against Warwickshire at Cardiff, but left the field on a stretcher after being hit on the head by a ball from Allan Donald .... **Page 49**

Motor racing: Michael Calvin talks to Frank Williams, owner of the leading team in Formula One, about the potentially highly-charged weekend that he faces in Imola.................................. **Page 43**

Golf: Severiano Ballesteros may at last be rediscovering a measure of form with a 70 in the first round of the Spanish Open............. **Page 46**

ARTS

Material issue: The Science Museum's new £4 million gallery, Challenge of Materials, has a giant musical bridge, cardboard chairs, a wire wedding dress — and Astroturf shoes.................. **Page 35**

Party time: The ever-optimistic Kurt Wallinger pays his own homage to the Beatles and others on Egyptology, the fourth album by his World Party .... **Page 36**

Pensive Paul: Paul McCartney has much to celebrate, including a strong solo album out in May, a new single and a knighthood. But his mood is reflective......... **Page 37**

Phoenix rising: The Phoenix Dance Company is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary with a mixed bill including a beautiful new piece by Pamela L. Johnson .... **Page 38**

FEATURES

Valerie Grove: As John Schlesinger's film of Cold Comfort Farm has its charity premiere in London, Valerie Grove talks to a director who, at the age of 71, is on top of his craft and known among colleagues as a benevolent dictator............ **Page 20**

Closing the gap: In some corners of England "Gap" is said to be replacing "cat" or "mat" as the first word that precocious youngsters learn to read, says Grace Bradberry. The cool, sporty styles have made the label an obsession with some mothers .... **Page 21**

Bone appetit: Giles Whittell borrows a dog so it can join the other pampered pooches at the first restaurant in America to have a separate menu for dogs............ **Page 21**

EDUCATION

Young at arts: The health of the arts in schools is strong, says a survey. But more money should be provided to develop the talent of young musicians, Susan Elkins argues.................................. **Page 41**

THE PAPERS

President Yeltsin's announcement of a new "multipolar" world order boils down to an admission that Russia is now a second-rate power and will have to make the best of it ... Russia has now joined the club of second-tier independent powers, especially China and India, who share a sense of resentment at US hegemony. — *Moscow Times*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ CAR 97

The motorcyclist who has fought cancer to return to the World Superbike Championship

■ MAGAZINE

Once Roberto Alagna was hailed as the fourth tenor; now the singer is making a comeback

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Britain's leisure industry under scrutiny in *Weekend Watchdog* (BBC1, 7.00pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on a couple obsessed with vacuum cleaners, in *Mad About Machines* .... **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

The awkward squad

The Times would commend Frank Field, Tam Dalyell, and Denzil Davies to their respective constituencies .... **Page 23**

Private lives

Labour's manifesto refers to the "apartheid" between private and public education. The destruction of the Assisted Places Scheme would lead to a far more literal sense of apartheid .... **Page 23**

Royal mail

George V was not a man renowned for his intellectual pursuits. But he shared with his subjects a passion for one of the most widespread and edifying of all hobbies: stamp-collecting.............................. **Page 23**

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS

Could the Labour Party permanently supplant the Conservatives in the affections of Middle Britain? And could the Tories swerve off towards what many may dub the Likud Tendency? These may prove the great questions whose genesis we are witnessing, without knowing it.................................. **Page 22**

TESSA BLACKSTONE

With less than a week to go before the election, those who tell the pollsters they don't know or don't care should relent and abandon their indifference........................ **Page 22**

PHILIP HOWARD

Citoyen Santer of the Brussels Directorate sighed deeply and pushed his spectacles farther down his nose. He had done his best to smoke out just one of those beefy *Poudings* across the Channel who would admit to liking Santer's federal vision.......................... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Dr Robert Simpson, former Minister of Community Relations in Northern Ireland; **Michael Macoun**, colonial policeman.... **Page 25**

LETTERS

Nationality and sovereignty in Europe; UK presidency of EU; sanctions on Burma; abortion broadcast .... **Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,463

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ACROSS

1 Philosopher's making a record about medicine (8).
6 Painful emotion about one pound stake (6).
9 Put ingredient for salad dressing down (6).
10 Dog given outing and drink (8).
11 After several years, books become corrupt (8).
12 First part of play about proceedings in court (6).
13 Try it out loud? (5).
14 Quite distraught, Pericles finds "joy at last" (9).
17 Trace pot converted into foreign currency (9).
19 Routed, I fled the scene of battle (5).
22 Regret absence of one's wife (6).
23 Master to disappear suddenly? Without question (8).
24 Bird starts to scratch, pulling up radish plant (8).
25 Times editor's rousing leaders that can undo mistakes (6).
26 18+51+500 — pupil's blinded by this (6).
27 19 about to take in suit (8).

DOWN

2 Lesson I adapted for big game (7).
3 Receive role in play? Pan (4,5).
4 Tree presented by Head Girl (6).
5 Canons hostile about new authority (7,3,5).
6 Standard medical equipment, in a manner of speaking (8).
7 Picture — one with the speaker holding a drink (7).
8 Resentful of Dior's lead after New Look (5-4).
13 If all men start off equal, they're different at home (2,7).
15 Arouse terror initially in ape (9).
16 Bad scrap — injured — in emergency bed (5,3).
18 Watch broadcast from abroad, do (7).
20 Most voluptuous lady overwhelmed by desire (7).
21 Eat in some catering establishment (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,462

C	A	E	R	P	H	I	L	L	Y	■	A	R	I	D
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Times Two Crossword, page 48

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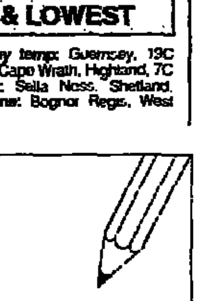
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: *Highest day temp:* Guernsey, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Sella Ness, Shetland, 1.25in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 12.8hr



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a cloudy, wet day with extensive hill fog. Rain will be most persistent, and heaviest, in the North and West but will turn more showery in the South West later. East winds will keep the North rather chilly while the South will be warmer in a westerly flow.

Northern Ireland and the Scottish Borders will be cloudy with some rain but the Central Lowlands northwards will be mainly dry with sunny spells. The odd wintry shower is possible in the North East. Light easterly winds will keep it rather chilly after night frost.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, Central N England:** cloudy, rain or drizzle at times. Hill fog. Wind south or southwest, mostly light or moderate. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** cloudy, rain or drizzle turning showery later. Hill fog. Wind southwest to west, moderate, locally fresh. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland, N Ireland:** cloudy, periods of rain, some heavy. Hill fog. Wind mostly east, moderate or fresh, locally light, variable. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll:** dry with sunny spells, perhaps a shower, wintry on hills. Wind east or northeast, light or moderate. Max 9C (48C).

☐ **NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** dry with sunny spells. Wind northeast to southeast, light. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** fine in the North at first, otherwise cloudy with some rain at times.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

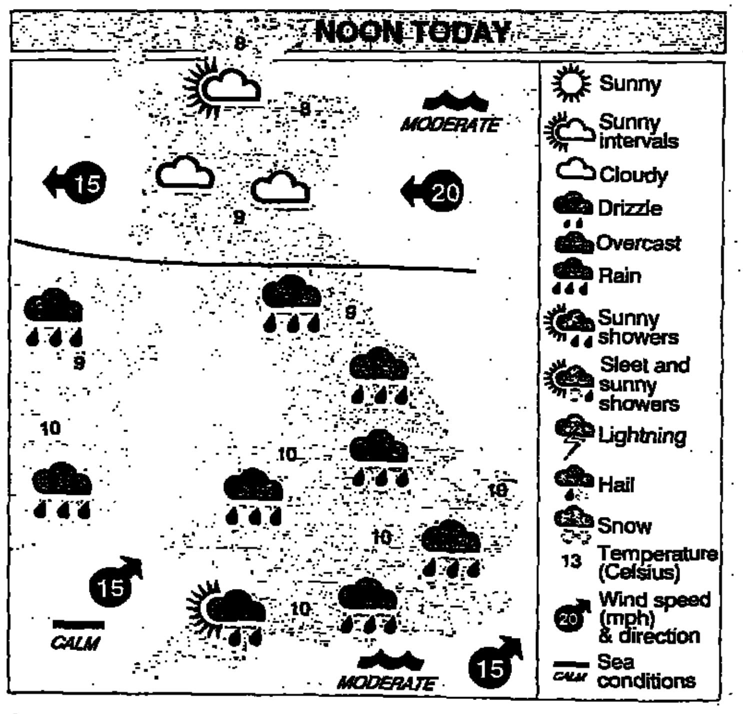
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X				
Anglesey	X				
Aspatria	X	0.49	9	48	r
Aviemore	X				
Belfast	-	0.11	12	54	r
Birmingham	X				
Bognor R	12.8	-	15	59	s
Bournem'th	11.8	-	15	59	s
Bristol	7.7	-	14	57	s
Buxton	2.7	-	11	52	c
Cardiff	11.0	0.01	14	57	s
Clacton	10.3	-	15	59	s
Colwyn Bay	3.4	0.01	16	61	b
Cromer	0.8	-	14	57	c
Eastbourne	12.3	-	13	55	s
Edinburgh	X				
Eskdalemuir	X				
Exmouth	6.5	-	15	59	s
Falmouth	11.4	-	15	59	s
Fishguard	6.5	0.01	14	57	c
Folkestone	12.4	-	14	57	s
Glasgow	X				
Guernsey	11.4	-	19	66	s
Hastings	12.5	-	14	57	s
Hayling I.	11.8	-	14	57	b
Herne Bay	7.6	-	16	61	b
Hove	8.5	-	12	54	s
Hunstanton	X	-	14	57	c
Isle of Man	0.5	-	12	54	c
Jersey	12.7	-	18	64	s
Kinloss	2.9	0.05	9	48	r
Leeds	2.7	-	14	57	c
Lerwick	X				
Leuchars	7.6	0.01	15	59	sh
Littlehmptn	11.2	-	15	59	s
London	3.9	-	16	61	b
Lowestoft	3.3	-	14	57	c
Manchester	3.8	0.01	13	55	c
Margate	8.8	-	17	63	s
Morecambe	1.3	0.01	11	52	c
Newcastle	0.1	0.01	12	54	d
Newquay	6.1	-	14	57	b
Norwich	2.1	-	14	57	c
Oxford	7.7	-	1559		
Penzance	X	-	15	59	s
Poole	9.5	-	17	63	s
Prestatyn	X	0.01	14	57	c
Ross-o-wye	5.0	-	14	57	b
Ryde	12.5	-	14	57	s
Salcombe	11.7	-	15	59	s
Sandown	12.3	-	15	59	s
Sauntn Snd	10.5	-	14	57	s
Scarboro'	X				
Shanklin	12.3	-	X	X	s
Shrewsbury	0.6	-	12	54	c
Skegness	1.0	-	14	57	c
Southend	X	-	15	59	b
Southport	6.0	-	13	55	b
Southsea	10.4	-	13	55	s
Stornoway	5.5	0.03	9	48	sh
Swanage	11.7	-	14	57	s
Teignmouth	8.4	-	15	59	s
Tenby	10.1	0.01	13	55	s
Tiree	X				
Torquay	11.1	-	16	61	s
Ventnor	11.9	0.01	13	55	s
West-s-mare	8.0	-	15	59	s
Weymouth	10.5	-	13	55	s

ABROAD

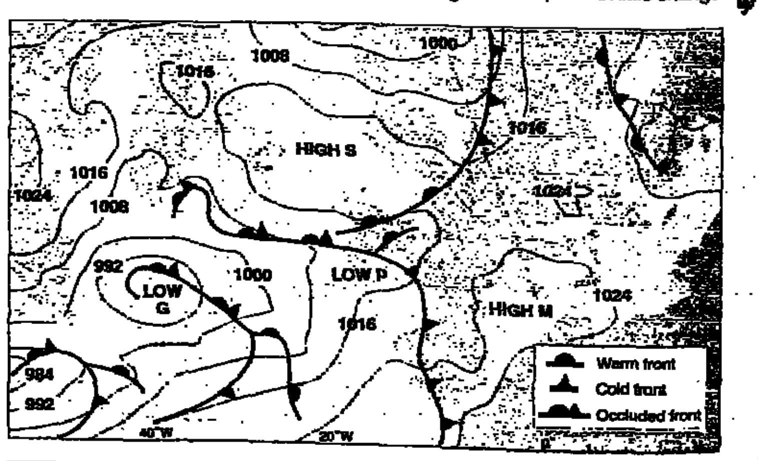
Ajaccio	15	59	f
Akrotiri	23	73	c
Alex'dria	28	82	s
Algiers	18	64	r
Amst'dm	11	52	s
Athens	20	68	s
B Aires	25	77	f
Bahrain	27	81	s
Bangkok	29	84	f
Barbados	29	84	s
Barcelona	16	61	f
Beirut	28	82	f
Belgrade	6	43	r
Berlin	8	46	f
Bermuda	23	73	s
Biarritz	15	59	s
Borde'x	16	61	s
Brussels	11	52	s
Budapst	11	52	f
Cairo	36	97	s
Cape Tn	16	61	c
Ch'church	11	52	x
Chicago	12	54	s
Cologne	10	50	s
Corfu	17	63	f
C'phagn	6	43	r
Dublin	14	57	c
Dubrovnik	8	46	r
Faro	18	64	f
Florence	15	59	s
Frankfurt	12	54	s
Funchal	21	70	s
Geneva	13	55	s
Gibraltar	20	68	f
Helsinki	4	39	f
Hong K	24	75	s
Innsbrck	11	52	s
Istanbul	22	72	s
Jeddah	35	95	s
Jo'burg	15	59	c
L Angels	21	70	s
L Palmas	22	72	s
Le Touquet	11	52	s
Lisbon	18	64	c
Locarno	16	61	s
Luxembg	11	52	s
Luxor	42	108	s
Madrid	19	66	s
Majorca	20	68	f
Malaga	21	70	f
Malta	18	64	s
Melb'rne	23	73	s
Mexico C	24	75	s
Miami	31	88	s
Milan	16	61	s
Montreal	14	57	s
Moscow	8	46	f
Munich	9	48	f
N Delhi	35	95	s
N York	16	61	s
Nairobi	24	75	s
Naples	15	59	s
Nice	16	61	s
Oslo	6	43	f
Paris	13	55	s
Peking	18	64	f
Perth	23	73	s
Prague	8	46	f
Reykjavik	5	41	c
Rhodes	19	66	s
Rio de J	24	75	f
Riyadh	31	88	f
Rome	14	57	f
S Fr'isco	16	61	s
S Paulo	22	72	c
Salzburg	6	43	c
Santiago	21	70	f
Seoul	20	68	s
Sing'por	34	93	f
St'kholm	6	43	f
Strasb'rg	14	57	s
Sydney	25	77	s
Tangier	19	66	f
Tel Aviv	38	100	s
Tenerife	26	79	s
Tokyo	11	52	f
Toronto	11	52	f
Tunis	19	66	c
Valencia	15	59	f
Vanc'ver	11	52	c
Venice	14	57	s
Vienna	11	52	f
Warsaw	8	46	f
Wash'ton	16	61	s
Wel'ngton	12	54	r
Zurich	11	52	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday x = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low P will move E, filling slowly; low G will move N with little change; high S will decline and drift E; high M will slip S with little change



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	04.09	7.2	16.27	7.3	Leith	05.01	5.3	17.22	5.3
Aberdeen	03.36	4.1	15.55	4.1	Liverpool	01.21	9.4	13.39	9.2
Avonmouth	09.34	13.1	21.53	13.1	Lowestoft	11.54	2.4		
Belfast	01.05	3.4	13.27	3.4	Margate	02.10	4.7	14.30	4.7
Cardiff	09.20	12.1	21.39	12.1	Milford Haven	09.33	6.8	20.52	6.8
Devonport	08.14	5.4	20.30	5.4	Newquay	07.24	6.9	19.44	6.8
Dover	01.03	6.5	13.21	6.5	Oban	01.03	3.8	20.21	3.8
Dublin (N Wall)	01.36	3.9	14.03	3.9	Penzance	07.54	5.8	19.59	5.5
Falmouth	07.45	5.2	20.01	5.2	Portland	09.25	1.9	21.37	2.0
Greenock	02.59	3.2	15.01	3.3	Portsmouth	01.28	4.5	13.49	4.5
Harwich	02.08	3.9	14.26	3.9	Shoreham	01.15	6.1	13.37	6.0
Holyhead	00.37	5.5	12.46	5.4	Southampton	00.51	4.5	13.11	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	08.40	8.5	20.59	8.4	Swansea	08.39	9.1	20.57	9.1
Ilfracombe	08.20	9.0	20.39	9.0	Tees	05.55	5.3	18.15	5.3
King's Lynn	08.44	6.6	21.01	6.5	Walton-on-N	02.02	4.1	14.18	4.1

All times BST Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.44 am	8.14 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
7.31 am	11.05 pm

Last quarter April 30

London 8.14 pm to 5.42 am
Bristol 8.24 pm to 5.52 am
Edinburgh 8.40 pm to 5.41 am
Manchester 8.26 pm to 5.45 am
Penzance 8.32 pm to 6.08 am

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

Tunnel's refinance proposals attacked

By Jason Nissé

EUROTUNNEL was given a warning yesterday that its £2.2 billion refinancing plans do not go far enough.

The proposals, which Eurotunnel said were back on track despite revealing full-year losses of £685 million, would cut its £8.7 billion of debt by £1.1 billion immediately, and by another £1.1 billion in six years' time.

Richard Hannah, transport analyst at UBS Securities, said: "The proposals are not sufficiently robust to last. Shareholders could be looking at another tranche of refinancing within a few years."

The updated plans, which are dependent on Eurotunnel meeting the turnover targets it set before last November's fire, have been agreed by the steering group of six banks but will not go before the 225-strong banking syndicate until October. Three shareholder groups in France are planning to block the proposals.

However, Robert Malpas, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, said he was hoping to win investors round by securing an extension to Eurotunnel's licence to operate the tunnel, which has 65 years to run.

Yesterday's figures showed turnover for 1996 up 71 per cent, to £483 million. The operating loss was cut from £200 million to £33 million and the pre-tax loss from £924 million to £685 million.

Analysts were concerned about the first quarter of 1997 when turnover dropped from £100 million to £75.5 million, which, despite the fire, was below expectations.

Traffic figures for Le Chunnel Tourist, which carries cars, have recovered to 80 per cent of their pre-fire level but analysts said the test would be the reopening of the tunnel for freight in mid-June.

Best for shareholders, page 31

Andrew Regan, left, Allan Green, top left, and David Chambers, top right, with wives and guests at a function in 1995

Regan ends bid as Nomura pulls out

By Sarah Cunningham

ANDREW REGAN and David Lyons have ditched their bid to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society after losing the support of Nomura, the Japanese bank that had been willing to lend them £1.2 billion.

CWS, far from being pacified by the move, reacted by announcing the start of criminal proceedings against the two men and against Allan Green, the CWS executive who admits that he supplied Mr Regan and Mr Lyons with confidential information.

CWS accused Mr Green of theft and Mr Regan and Mr Lyons of "aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the theft", as well as handling stolen property. CWS said the case has been put before the City of London magistrates and that the three men will have to appear on May 28.

CWS is also beginning civil proceedings against Hambros Bank, which advised Galileo, the company set up by Mr Regan and Mr Lyons to carry out the takeover, and Travers Smith Braithwaite, Galileo's solicitors. CWS said "We have been advised that there is clear evidence that both these organisations acted in breach of an equitable obligation of confidentiality to CWS. There was no credible grounds for believing that there was any legitimate basis for Mr Regan to have any such documents."

Mr Regan, who heads the Guernsey-based Lanica Trust, and Mr Lyons would not comment yesterday. A spokesman said that they had been advised not to speak ahead of a High Court hearing today at which a judge will decide whether to uphold an injunction stopping them from making use of material obtained from Mr Green.

The collapse of the bid should clear the way for Lanica's shares, which were suspended in February after an enormous rise in value, to be re-listed in the next few days. Lanica's broker, James Capel, was in talks with the Stock Exchange yesterday.

Galileo's official line was that it had decided to end the bid after directors of the CWS declined on Wednesday to put its proposal to members. Nomura, which declined to make any comment, is believed to have given Galileo until 9am yesterday to come up with signed assurances about the deal, about Mr Regan's bona fides and particularly about the earlier cash payment of £2.4 million made to a middleman, Ronald Zimet.

The payment was made for his help in arranging the extension of a contract between CWS and Hobson, a company run by Mr Regan, which bought the CWS food manufacturing operations. Mr Zimet, who has been in Israel, returned to the UK yesterday. A spokesman said that on the advice of his lawyers he was unwilling to talk about the deal.

Nomura is believed to be willing still to back a bid for CWS and it is understood some American banks are circling. Allied Irish Bank said it was still interested in buying the Co-op Bank, if it ever comes up for sale.

It was also confirmed yesterday that J Sainsbury was approached by Mr Regan about acquiring some of the CWS superstores. In a letter to the CWS solicitors, Sainsbury's said that it has returned all documents concerning the property.

Pennington, page 29

Barclays breaks ranks with banks on preparing for monetary union

By Oliver August

BARCLAYS BANK has broken ranks with the banking industry and warned customers that it is not preparing to have euro retail banking services ready for early monetary union. Other top banks say they would offer euro accounts from the start of a single currency.

In the absence of a political decision, Barclays does not expect sterling to join the euro in the first wave and does not want to waste money.

Its stand goes against Bank of England recommendations published yesterday. These suggest that banks should go ahead so that they can start euro operations if needed.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, said: "We won't have converted our counters so that they can run on dual currencies, which is what is required just before the changeover, but we might be able to meet that provided a decision was taken in the very near future. As time goes on we will find it more difficult to meet that."

Barclays said it need not be ready for the earliest start date, January 1, 1999, because Britain is unlikely to join then. Mr Buxton told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "I think that Britain should not join in the first round."

Other high street banks are preparing for full euro services irrespective of Britain's position. Margaret Soden, senior manager of monetary union planning at Midland, said: "We will be offering euro accounts from January 1999. We are preparing for both scenarios. You would expect a major UK bank to do so."

NatWest is also preparing for a full conversion to the euro in 1999. A spokesman said: "We are planning regardless of whether we think the UK will go into monetary union. It would appear improbable that the UK would join in 1999 but being a sizeable financial institution we nevertheless prepare for it."

The cost of converting counter services is holding Barclays back. A spokeswoman said: "We have held back from investing in changing the system as there hasn't been a clear decision whether the UK will be in from the start."

Barclays has invested £40 million to prepare its wholesale banking operations. The cost of changing the retail side is estimated to be about £200 million. The spokeswoman said Mr Buxton was in full agreement with the rest of the board on the issue.

The Bank of England's report, *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro*, sets a timetable for euro-denominated retail payment systems. It says banks should aim to "make the necessary amendments to the infrastructure by January 1, 1999".

Pennington, page 29

Buxton: not converting

Business Today

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4388.5	(+0.8)
Yield	3.68%	
FTSE All share	2120.47	(–0.66)
Nikkei	18698.07	(–37.40)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6822.76	(+10.04)*
S&P Composite	774.26	(+0.62)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5⅝%)
Long Bond	94⁴⁄₃₂*	(94¹¹⁄₃₂)
Yield	7.10%*	(7.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⁷⁄₁₆%	(6⅜%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	109⁵⁄₃₂	(109½)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6263*	(1.6233)
London:		
$	1.6263	(1.6233)
DM	2.7924	(2.7797)
FFr	9.4222	(9.3804)
SFr	2.3761	(2.3721)
Yen	205.10	(204.71)
£ Index	99.6	(99.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7155*	(1.7138)
FFr	5.7950*	(5.7790)
SFr	1.4623*	(1.4638)
Yen	125.95*	(126.05)
$ Index	105.7	(105.7)

Tokyo close Yen 126.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$18.25	($18.10)

GOLD

London close	$340.75	($340.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Ethical victory

An 18-year-old Cambridge student is the latest winner of the NatWest/*Times* Business Ethics competition. Owain Evans beat five other finalists with his ideas as to how Go-Build, a construction company, should reconcile the demands of shareholders and environmental protestors. The contest made clear that youngsters expect high standards from business and will punish those guilty of unethical behaviour. Page 31

Discount move knocks Laura Ashley shares

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES in Laura Ashley, the fashion retailer, plunged almost 30 per cent yesterday after the company said that this year's profits would be hit by a decision to sell its spring and summer clothing at discount prices.

The collection, which showed a move away from the flowery prints that made Laura Ashley famous, was the first to be produced by the design team put together by Ann Iverson, its American chief executive.

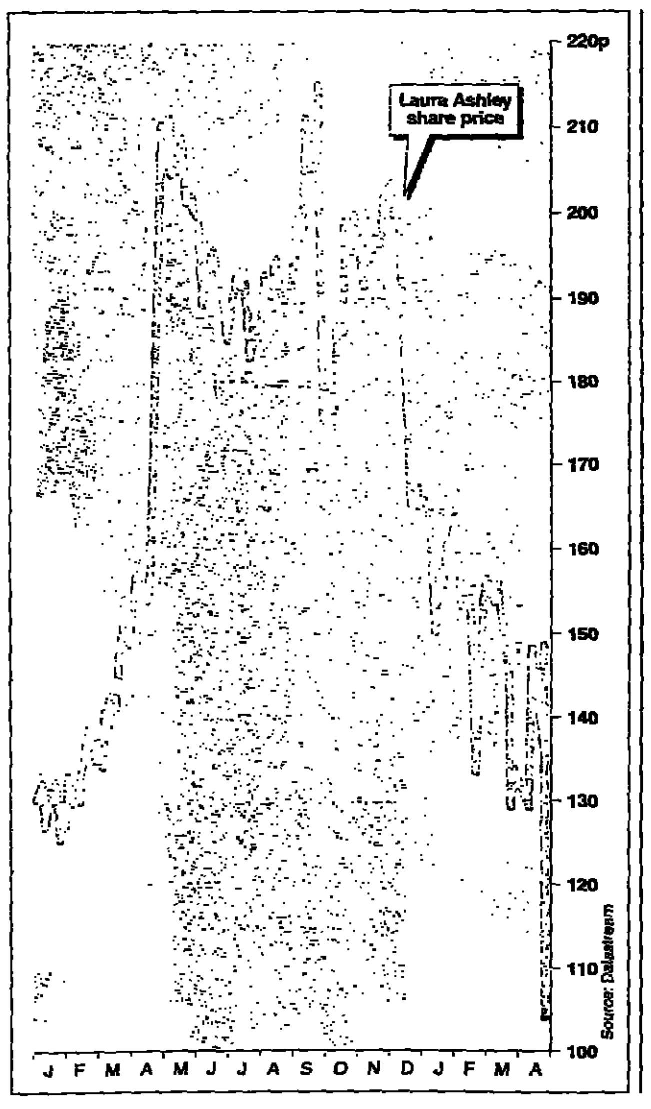
The warning led analysts to cut profit forecasts from about £25 million to as low as £18 million. The price markdowns will cost the company about £4 million, while increased advertising in America is expected to cost up to £3 million. The shares fell 41p to close at 104p after touching a low of 94½p.

Mrs Iverson, who joined Laura Ashley nearly two years ago with a brief to update the company, said over-aggressive sales targets were the main reason for the price markdowns. She added that a slower than expected new opening programme in the US had also meant too much stock building up. "It is an over-buy issue, not a design issue. I am very supportive of the design change and confident of the direction." The problem would not extend into the second half of this year, she said.

However, analysts were concerned that apart from discounting Laura Ashley was trying to bring down prices to a point where it could compete with the likes of Marks & Spencer and Next. One said: "Next imports from the Far East and is not saddled with Welsh factories, so it could afford to sacrifice a bit of margin and give Laura Ashley a bloody nose."

The company yesterday reported a sharp rise in profits last year. In the 12 months to January 25, pre-tax profit rose to £16.2 million from £10.3 million. Earnings per share were 4.28p (2.97p) and the final dividend of 0.6p, payable on July 4, gives a full-year payout of 1p (0.5p).

Pennington, page 29



Carby's £600,000 payoff

By Marianne Curphey

KEITH CARBY, one of the co-founders of J Rothschild Assurance and a key player in its six-year history, is to leave the company, in which he has a £10 million stake, with a £600,000 payoff. He declined to explain the reasons for his departure, scheduled for July 4, and said he was "looking for new challenges".

Ten days ago JRA announced a reverse takeover of St James's Place Capital (SJPC), the holding company, to bring JRA to the stock market and realise personal fortunes for Mr Carby, 50, and Sir Mark Weinberg and Mike Wilson, co-founders.

Under the restructuring deal Mr Carby was to remain managing director of JRA and sell 20 per cent of his stake to Prudential, netting him an immediate £2.4 million. He publicly pledged not to sell the remaining 80 per cent of his stake in JRA for 12 months.

SJPC said yesterday: "Having established his financial independence, he has now agreed with the company that it would be in everyone's best interests to set a firm date for his departure."

Gazprom looks to the West for $3.5bn

By Jason Nissé

GAZPROM, the Russian natural gas giant, will today announce the first part of an innovative $3.5 billion financing deal, one of the largest contemplated for a former Eastern bloc company.

The group's board agreed yesterday to issue a $2 billion eurobond this September, underwritten by Goldman Sachs, the US securities firm, and ABN Amro, the Dutch bank. The five-year bond is expected to have an interest rate lower than that of Russian sovereign debt, somthing that is virtually unheard of in the bond markets.

This fund-raising is expected to be followed next year by the issue of a $1.5 billion convertible bond, also backed by Goldman Sachs and ABN Amro.

In dealing with the financiers, Gazprom has been advised by Middlesex Holdings, a small quoted company based in north London. The group, whose chairman is Lord Owen, has created a niche in commodity trading and finance in Russia under the guidance of Masoud Alikhani, its Iranian-born chief executive. "This shows a massive change of attitude," said Mr Alikhani. "Two years ago you could not raise £500,000 for Russia without collateral in the West."

The two issues will bring to $6 billion the money raised by Gazprom from the West in only 12 months. In February Dresdner Bank led a consortium of 19 banks in lending $2.5 billion to Gazprom. The money is to be used to pay for a 3,000-mile pipeline being constructed from Gazprom's giant gasfields in Siberia to western Europe. On top of this, Gazprom has massive tax bills outstanding, which are reported to exceed $4.5 billion, and is due to pay $2 billion of this in the next few months.

The Russian Government has a 40 per cent stake in Gazprom and there has been talk of the group raising money via the London stock market.

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ICI warns of job cuts to combat sterling problem

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

A FRESH round of job cuts is expected at ICI, which is accelerating its productivity drive as the strong pound eats into already weak profits.

The chemicals manufacturer expects £120 million to be cut from this year's profits if sterling remains at its present level — up from the £90 million hit feared two months ago when ICI, whose chairman is Sir Ronald Hampel, announced results. In the first quarter of 1997 sterling cut £40 million from profits.

Alan Spall, finance director, said the productivity drive must be increased immediately to combat the impact of sterling. "That drive will inevitably fall on fixed costs such as manning," he said.

ICI is already implementing a rationalisation programme to reduce costs by £400 million a year and boost return on assets from 18 to 20 per cent. But the decision to scale up efficiencies was taken recently as the sterling problem proved tougher than first thought. Mr Spall would not put a figure on the extra job reductions but it is unlikely to be fewer than several hundred in the UK.

The sterling effect has led to casualties among large industrial companies that are heavy exporters or are geared to the mark for pricing. Recently British Steel increased its efficiency programme and said that up to 10,000 more jobs must be cut. Other companies have given warnings that the strong pound will reduce profits.

ICI has also been hit by strong pricing pressures in industrial chemicals, an area where it wants to reduce exposure in favour of more consumer-led chemical markets. Trading profit in the first three months plummeted £13 million into the red, compared with a £87 million profit in the same period last year.

Overall, trading profit before exceptionals to the end of March plunged £87 million — a drop of 58 per cent from the previous year.

Tempus, page 30

Sir Ronald Hampel, left, chairman of ICI, with Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, when the company announced its results in February

Chambers of Commerce plea for 1p increase in income tax

By Alasdair Murray and Philip Bassett

THE British Chambers of Commerce yesterday called for a 1p rise in income tax to help to cool the economy without harming the fragile manufacturing sector.

Ian Peters, BCC deputy director-general, joined a growing chorus of business leaders and economists who believe the widely expected post-election interest rate rises will further damage manufacturing investment and export competitiveness.

The London Business School (LBS), which publishes its spring *Economic Outlook* today, is also calling for the next government to consider tax rises in addition to raising base rates to help to head off the threat of inflation.

Andrew Sentance, director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the school and a former member of the Treasury panel of independent forecasters, argues that fiscal tightening would take some of the strain off interest rates and prevent the pound rising further. "Selective" tax rises would also help to place government borrowing on a sustainable basis and provide room for targeted tax cuts later in the Parliament.

The LBS forecasts that rates will rise to 7 per cent by early next year — with a 0.5 per cent rise needed immediately after the election — to counter the inflationary threat posed by rising wages.

It believes that GDP growth will hit 3.1 per cent this year, but that the rise in sterling will cause the economy to slow rapidly next year to register just 1.9 per cent GDP growth.

The BCC call for a tax rise came as it announced the results of its latest quarterly industrial survey of more than 8,000 companies.

This showed that manufacturing and service firms were seeing a continuing decline in sales growth, with exports hit by the strength of sterling and confidence falling.

But the BCC said that high levels of recruitment difficulties, coupled with rising wage settlements, could fuel wage inflation.

Trade figures published yesterday showed the global trade deficit widening to £758 million in February, compared with £535 million in the previous month. The non-EU trade deficit in March rose to £606 million in March, from £437 million in February.

Global export volumes fell 1.6 per cent in February, while non-EU exports dropped 4.1 per cent in March.

Second warning by Vickers

VICKERS, which makes Challenger tanks and Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, yesterday delivered a fresh warning about the strength of sterling, saying that profits for the first half of this year would fall short of those in 1996 (Christine Buckley writes).

The company pledged to take strong action to counter the impact of the high exchange rate of sterling. Last month Vickers gave a warning that the strength of the pound could knock up to £7 million from its profits this year. Last year the company turned in pre-tax profits of £83.3 million.

Sir Richard Lloyd, chairman of Vickers, told shareholders attending the company's annual meeting that export orders were proving harder to obtain and profit margins on them tended to be thinning. About half of the company's sales come from exports. Sir Richard said that 1997 would be a year of consolidation, but predicted that the company's prospects would be stronger after that.

He added: "We are confident that the significant investments which we have made will positively impact results and, that over 1997 and 1998 taken together, the growth pattern for your company will be sustained."

P&O places order for £200m superliner

P&O CRUISES has placed a £200 million order for a new superliner with a German shipyard, it was announced yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

The ship is to be built at the Meyer Werft shipyard and will be delivered for service in the spring of 2000. The vessel, which has not yet been named, will carry more than 1,800 passengers on worldwide cruises from the UK and will be a sister ship to *Oriana*, which was also built in Germany and was introduced as the P&O flagship in April 1995.

The order comes after an announcement in March that Princess Cruises, a P&O subsidiary, is to introduce a £300 million superliner. *The Ocean Princess*, is to be built at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Italy.

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.

1 How to participate

1. Hold a golf day involving at least 12 players and play under the Stableford scoring system.
2. Complete and send the form, together with the registration fee of £150 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 21st September 1997.*
3. After your golf day, simply submit the results of your top scoring golfers, (with official club handicaps) one of whom must be an employee of the registering company.

*Golf days registered after 6th September or played after 21st September will be entered for the 1998 Challenge.

2 Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times "forthcoming golf days" fixture list.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times "golf day results" column.
- A set of four personalised crystal trophies for your golf day winners.
- 25 Copies of The Times delivered to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- A golf day management software program for use on your golf day.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine - The Business Golfer.
- Three months' free subscription to Golf World magazine.
- If the combined Stableford score, (played or adjusted to 3/4 handicap), of the four leading players is among the top 25 scores in your respective region, they will qualify as a team to play in one of the fourteen Regional Finals in October 1997.
- The winning company team each of the fourteen Regional Finals will compete in the National Final at Hyatt La Manga Club Resort in Spain in November 1997, to be filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.

3 Rules and Conditions

A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of registration or you may obtain a copy by calling the Challenge office (details below) or by Faxback on 0660 580 664 (calls cost 49p per minute). The competition is approved by the R & A for payment of expenses "Rule 1-8 Exc. 7RA/94/97"

4 Further Information

Call the Challenge office on
0171 495 7273 or
0141 221 2225 (Scotland).
or you can access the Internet site on
http://www.golftoday.co.uk/timescorpgolf/

Company Registration

Company name ……
Name of Company Representative ……
Position …… Company Address ……
…… Post Code ……
Telephone No …… Facsimile ……
Will be holding a golf day at …… Golf Club
Address ……
…… County ……
on …… (Date) and will be attended by approximately …… golfers.
If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and advise us as soon as it is confirmed

Trophy Requirements

Please type or print clearly exactly what you would like on your trophy including punctuation upper and lower cases. We regret that personalised logos cannot be incorporated into the trophy design.

Date of Golf Day / /1997
Company Name (Maximum 30 letters) ……
Name of Golf Club (Maximum 30 letters) ……

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £176.25 inc VAT made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.G.C. Please send this completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

Signed …… Date ……

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Alliance & Leicester defends its auctions

By Our City Staff

ALLIANCE & Leicester, the former building society that floated on the stock market on Monday creating windfalls for 2.5 million members, yesterday defended its free share-dealing service.

Peter White, chief executive, said: "The aim of the auctions was to ensure that the price received by these individuals reflected the trend in the share price over the early phase of trading, and this has been successful."

More than 157 million shares were sold through the service, which used three auctions to fix a price. On Wednesday it said the price for the 620,000 people who decided to cash in early was 533.7p a share, making the standard 250-share handout worth £1,334.25.

After the first day of trading, A&L shares closed at 566.5p, the equivalent of £1,416 — or slightly below £1,400 if a standard dealing fee of £20 is subtracted. The company said members selling immediately had received a price in line with the value at the end of the first two days on the stock market. By Tuesday evening, the price had fallen to 533p.

Hollinger suffers from subscription campaign

By Eric Reguly

A COSTLY subscription campaign all but wiped out the 1996 profits of Conrad Black's British newspaper company, dominated by the *The Daily Telegraph* and its Sunday sister.

The annual report of Hollinger International, the Telegraph group's owner, revealed that the newspapers' operating income declined from $27 million in 1995 to $1.6 million in the year to the end of December. In 1994, when the price war with *The Times* began, the operating income was $33.9 million.

The downturn came in spite of an 11.6 rise in operating revenue, to $451.9 million, as the British group reported double-digit increase in both classified and advertising revenue.

Hollinger blamed the profits collapse on the $32.3 million cost of a direct subscription campaign that gave large discounts to new *Telegraph* readers. The discounts drove down operating margins from 9.23 to 3.52 per cent.

Hollinger said the subscription campaign helped to lift circulation at *The Daily* and *The Sunday Telegraph*.

MCI's soaring costs keep profits flat in first quarter

From Richard Thomson in New York

MCI, the long-distance US telephone company that is merging with British Telecom, reported soaring costs had kept profits flat in the first three months of 1997.

The phone company earned $295 million, unchanged from the same period last year, despite a healthy rise in revenues. Gerald Taylor, chief executive, said that profits from its core long-distance business grew to $403 million, or 57 cents a share, but investments in new ventures slashed the profit growth by 15 cents a share.

Since last year's deregulation of the US phone industry, MCI has been investing in new areas such as local phone services and high technology. While revenue from local phone services rose 63 per cent to $65 million, the cost of breaking into this business meant profits were minimal.

The company said it expected revenue and traffic growth to slow over the next few months as growth in markets such as domestic phones moderated. The company's performance would also be dented over the near term by its increasing investment in higher-margin businesses.

MCI's $23 billion merger with BT to form Concert is due to be completed this autumn. Analysts gave warning that merger costs and management time devoted to the deal were likely to limit profit growth in the next year or two.

However, MCI said that despite the extra expense investment in new areas was paying off. Information technology grew by 27 per cent to $433 million, and revenue from its Internet services grew 200 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

French expansion by CU lifts shares

COMMERCIAL UNION shares, already buoyed by strong new business figures this week, rose further yesterday after news that the composite was expanding further into the French insurance market. CU said the deal would increase CU's new single premium business in France, which was £357 million for the first three months of this year, by 30 per cent. The deal is in keeping with CU's strategy of expanding on the Continent and French new single premiums will now be three times those of the UK.

CU said it had acquired 73 per cent of SEV, a French life assurer, and 100 per cent of a French broking business in an agreement with AFER, the largest association of savers in France and an organisation with which CU shares new business. The share rose 3p to 656p after a 13p rise the previous day.

Stakis rates drop

DISRUPTIONS caused by room refurbishment pushed occupancy rates at Stakis, the Scottish hotel and casinos chain, down 4.4 points to 64.7 per cent in the first three months of the year. The company said that its Metropole chain, which it bought last November, was trading well with occupancy already up by 5.3 per cent and room rates up by 11.2 per cent. Like-for-like casino attendances jumped 18 per cent to 594,000, but spend per head declined by £5 to £112. The company's shares held at 100p yesterday, although 2.92 million changed hands. The company also named Robert Smith, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, as its fourth non-executive director, with immediate effect.

Pension provision falls

MORE than four out of ten working adults have no current pension provision — up slightly on previous research, according to a survey by NOP, the research group, based on interviews with 14,500 people. It found the proportion of people in either full-time or part-time work without any form of pension provision — other than the basic state pension — had increased by 1 percentage point to 42 per cent in the six months to December 1996, compared with a year earlier. The findings suggest attempts to encourage companies to increase their pension provision for their staff and for individuals to take out personal pension plans had met with "only limited success", the survey concludes.

Blue Circle package

KEITH ORRELL-JONES, chief executive of Blue Circle Industries, saw his total salary package rise from £383,846 to £390,972 during 1996, while he also cashed in executive share options worth £890,145, according to the latest accounts from the company. The accounts also reveal that he was awarded £123,900 "phantom options" last year, which entitles him to a cash bonus provided, certain performance targets are met. His total remuneration package also included a £92,036 performance-related bonus. The options covered a four-year period.

Interactive Leeds FC

CASPIAN Group said it will launch a Leeds United interactive TV service with Hull-based Video Networks at the beginning of next year. The service will create a virtual catalogue with 330 items currently available through Leeds United's retail outlets, it said. The service will also include a Leeds United video magazine with archive footage, and a bulletin board with club information. The interactive service will enable Caspian to participate in the development of broadband TV services, the group said. **City Diary, page 31**

Society looks at options

BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES, one of the building societies yet to announce plans to float on the stock market and convert to a bank, yesterday refused to rule out such a move. John Leighfield, the chairman, reaffirmed the desire of the society, the UK's eighth largest, to grow by "acquisition or merger". Speculation was inevitable in the current climate, he told the society's annual meeting. "The board continues to research all the options to ensure it is fulfilling its duty to act in the best long term interests of the society. No better destiny has been found."

Bodycote chief sells

JOSEPH DWEK, the founding chairman of Bodycote, the Manchester-based metal technology company that makes bullet-proof vests, yesterday sold 455,997 of his shares in the group at 745p each. The sale raised £3.4 million for him. The shares closed at 750p yesterday. Mr Dwek holds 3.4 million shares, representing a 4.22 per cent stake in the company. At yesterday's closing price, the holding was worth about £25.5 million. Mr Dwek made a similar sale in May last year.

Trinity Holdings ahead

TRINITY HOLDINGS, the fire engines to refuse lorries company, lifted pre-tax profits 9 per cent to £17.4 million in the year to January 31. The company sold 1,000 of its special buses, which lower themselves six inches to provide a no-step access for passengers. It also secured orders for 240 of its double-deck version of the bus. Its airport vehicles division was boosted by orders for its "no-pole" tractors. Earnings nudged up to 20.6p (20.5p) a share. The final dividend is 6.1p, bringing the total to 8.9p (8.2p), due July 31.

Poor response to review

THE Securities and Investments Board claims that only two in five people contacted in the personal pensions review process have responded. At present, life insurers and independent financial advisers are contacting hundreds of thousands of clients who may have been mis-sold a personal pension. So far, the industry has offered redress of £80 million to 10,800 people, making the average amount of compensation £7,500 a person. The industry has been strongly criticised by regulators such as the SIB for taking so long to resolve the situation.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	20.54	19.04
Belgium Fr	60.48	55.98
Canada $	2.376	2.206
Cyprus Cyp£	0.871	0.806
Denmark Kr	11.16	10.36
Finland Mkk	8.89	8.21
France Fr	9.82	9.12
Germany Dm	2.94	2.72
Greece Dr	461	431
Hong Kong $	13.31	12.21
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02
Israel Shk	5.80	5.15
Italy Lira	2920	2720
Japan Yen	218.90	202.90
Malta	0.657	0.602
Netherlds Gld	3.316	3.046
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	11.99	11.19
Portugal Esc	291.00	271.00
S Africa Rd	7.91	7.01
Spain Pta	245.50	228.50
Sweden Kr	13.19	12.19
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.33
Turkey Lira	222537	208537
USA $	1.722	1.592

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Everything to prove at Laura Ashley ☐ External approach is better for bids ☐ Banks must tackle millennium bug first

A fashion for flowery words

☐ ONE can only speculate as to the manner in which the irascible Sir Bernard Ashley received the latest trading figures from the company that bears his late wife's name but those of a sensitive disposition would have been well advised to keep clear.

Sir Bernard, whose family still holds almost a third of Laura Ashley, would have been justified in suggesting to chief executive Ann Iverson that she cut the jargon and explain why the company she was so confident she could put to rights is still struggling.

For the chief executive to offer the platitude that "we continue to remain a results-driven group", is hardly destined to win a round of applause from shareholders who have just seen the value of their investment fall by a third.

After nearly two years in the role, Ms Iverson is still experimenting without producing results that suggest she has found a formula worthy of reproducing.

She is undoubtedly highly motivated — the potential to pocket up to £5 million in another couple of years should provide some inspiration: But on current performance, the glossy American will not have to worry about any new windfall tax that may be looming.

There are two views on Laura Ashley. The first, encouraged by the enthusiasms of Sir Bernard, believe that it has all the makings of an international brand that could rank among the best. The second sees it as a niche player, which cannot grow too far out of its heritage however much Ms Iverson tries to cast off the floral prints. On current view, the second may have got it right.

Ms Iverson, often described as feisty, has taken the brave step of investing heavily in moving Ashley into big new stores in the US, with little indication that these will be any more successful than the smaller ones that have been failing to perform.

In the UK, she tells us that the company has cleverly kept up sales levels by "taking greater mark-downs in order to ensure better sell through of in-season merchandise". This is what other retailers refer to as having a sale.

It will take more than jargon to improve results from the group. Whether she blames late store openings or over-optimistic ordering, the chief executive has had to admit that the next set of figures will be disappointing because customers are not buying all that Laura Ashley wants to sell.

Her task is made harder by the heritage factor: the Welsh factories that were part of the original Ashley dream and which Sir Bernard is loathe to close. Whatever the theoretical benefits of an integrated business, Laura Ashley has never found them.

Ann Iverson has brought in an almost entirely new team to help her turn around the company, most of them female. They may loyally shop in the company stores but their custom will not be enough to bring her the bonus.

Regan's folly comes back to haunt him

☐ SO IT has all ended about as badly as it possibly could for that clever Andrew Regan. His backers are distancing themselves, the Co-op is bringing criminal proceedings against or suing anyone involved, and shares in Lanica are about to be relisted. Once they are back to the three-ha'pence they are probably worth after this débâcle, Mr Regan will not be bidding for anything much larger than a box of paperclips.

Good thing, too. His activities have done a disservice to the City, and to anyone who thinks it right for underperforming managements to be swept aside in favour of performing ones, to the benefit of those who actually own the assets. This is the justification for the contested takeover bid, and if Labour makes these more difficult if in power, some of the blame must rest with Mr Regan and his pals.

This has been one of those occasional bids — Forte and Granada was the last — that has made it on to the front pages from the financial sections. The City should always be on its best behaviour on such occasions, and few new readers will have cared for what they read this time. Bungs to Cayman Islands companies, the looting of private documents through the back door; the CWS's resorting to private detectives to photograph Mrs Regan's bikini seems a justified response.

Mr Regan's City backers may not have been out of the top drawer — hard to imagine a Cazenove or a Lazards becoming involved — but their reputations, and especially that of Schroders, have been tarnished. Nonetheless, it is not all bad news. It is change at the Co-operative movement that will be the most lasting legacy of this affair.

There are already pressure groups springing up among members demanding that further approaches be taken seriously. If a respected retailer, a Sir Geoff Mulcahy say, comes along, or an organisation with the right altruistic credentials — wild thought, John Lewis — they will have to be heard. Or Graham Melmoth and other Co-op heavyweights will have to improve performance from inside. Given the internal tangles at the CWS, the CRS and the rest of the movement, an external approach may prove to be the easier.

Barclays backs ostrich over EMU

☐ BARCLAYS is right to risk political incorrectness and tell Britain's politicians to stop being so self-indulgent over the single currency. Across Europe, banks and businesses (including the continental parts of British groups) are preparing actively for retail use of the euro in the confidence that their own governments are pressing ahead. It may not happen but any business decision carries such risks.

If British companies are to press ahead, they have to do so on two alternative strategies. Some adjustments need to be made whether the UK joins or not. The cost of conversion is heavy enough to dent bank profits noticeably.

Some changes affect customers. Shoppers would have to put up with a shortage of cash machines, for instance, while most were converted to euros. Banks that lost millions gearing up for the Stock Exchange's aborted Taurus system do not want to throw scores of millions down the drain on a euro the UK is not likely to join.

The millennium problem for computers coincides with the first wave of EMU. The former will cost even a relatively simple bank such as Abbey National at least £50 million. Both main parties have authorised statements saying that UK entry in the first wave is "extremely unlikely". So it is sensible, rather than ostrich-like, to put the domestic euro on the back burner and cope with the millennium issue first.

Snakes and ladders

☐ INTRODUCING what has to be the worst AIM stock ever. Snakeboard International — note the International, providing some spurious credibility along with David Lloyd as a non-executive — makes a skateboard you steer by wiggling your feet. Who could resist such an invention? The company has now managed two profits warnings before its first set of figures as a quoted company. Surprise, it was brought to us by our old friends Neill Clark Capital. It would be more interesting to know who actually puts up real money for these dogs.

Equitas court victory for Lloyd's

By Adam Jones

LLOYD'S OF LONDON has won a High Court battle over a controversial "pay now, sue-later" clause in investors' contracts. The society had taken legal action to collect money from three names who allege they are victims of fraud.

Mr Justice Colman ruled yesterday that Dennis Leighs, Geoffrey Lyon and David Wilkinson have to pay a share of the costs of establishing Equitas, the reinsurer that took on the market's crippling liabilities.

They had claimed that they were recruited fraudulently, invalidating a "pay now, sue-later" clause in their contracts.

Lloyd's said it will now be able to start collecting about £350 million from dissidents, even though an appeal should be heard in the next few months. Ron Sandler, Lloyd's chief executive officer, said: "Lloyd's is delighted that today's ruling, taken together with Mr Justice Colman's earlier ruling in the action, upholds the legal basis for the reinsurance into Equitas."

Sandler: delighted

In the same dispute, Mr Justice Colman ruled in February that the Equitas structure is legitimate, dismissing one justification for non-payment.

The American Names Association, which wants to sue Lloyd's in US courts, welcomed the decision. It said it proved that "no remedies for fraud exist for US Lloyd's investors in the UK courts".

The United Names Organisation, a pressure group of investors, said the ruling means many names will not be able to afford legal action over fraud allegations.

Catherine Mackenzie Smith, chairman, said: "For the English names with no proper investor protection law to help them, this judgment represents a setback."

Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Associations' Working Party, said: "Lloyd's continues to behave with arrogant disregard for those it has ruined."

Later this year, Mr Justice Colman will consider the position of non-paying names who say they are being pursued for sums larger than those agreed when they accepted the reconstruction and renewal package.

Earlier this week, the 1,000-strong Rose Thomson Young Names Action Group, which includes Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Sir Richard Body, MP, served Lloyd's with a writ demanding £1.6 million in unrefunded expenses.

DES JENSON

Colin Evans, chairman, said the womenswear range, rather than the menswear normally associated with Austin Reed, was leading group growth

Austin Reed cuts a dash for women

By Fraser Nelson

AUSTIN REED, the clothes retailer, is to launch a series of new outlets in an attempt to exploit the success of its women's power-dressing range.

The company, whose "Look the business" advertising campaign is targeting women across UK cities, is to open women-only outlets for the first time in its history. It is also planning to greatly increase the number of concessions that it operates, relaxing its dependency on stand-alone shops.

Colin Evans, chairman, said the womenswear range had enjoyed exceptional success last year, and was leading the company's growth. He said: "We have had the new women's team in place for two years now, and they have delivered three successful seasons. This has given us the confidence to go forward and expand."

He added that the company, which did not open any new shops last year, has no target number of outlets in mind: "This has got to be a cost-effective opportunity, and not just a race for space. We are actively looking to inrease our footage, but we are not going to rush."

At present, Austin Reed runs 45 outlets, every one offering both mens and women's clothes, with only one concession.

Strong retail sales helped the company produce pre-tax profits of £6.8 million (£3.4 million) in the year to January 31, beating market expectations. Earnings were 14.2p (7.2p) a share, and a final dividend of 4.25p makes 6.5p (6p) for the year, due July 1. Analysts expect profits to break through £8 million next time, breaking the record set in 1989. Its shares gained 2½p to 254p.

Brent Walker leaps back into profit

By Alasdair Murray

BRENT WALKER, the leisure company formerly run by George Walker, has set a deadline of the end of the year to decide on the future of William Hill, its remaining asset.

The company's lending agreement with its banks runs out on December 31 and Brent Walker is expected to unveil a sale or flotation of the betting chain before this date.

Brent Walker, which almost collapsed in 1991, is still burdened with £1.3 billion of debt and a deficit in shareholders' funds of £1 billion. A float or a sale of William Hill is expected to realise up to £700 million. Bass, owner of the Coral chain, is tipped as a likely bidder.

Brent Walker succeeded in returning to the black last year, with a full-year profit before tax of £50.6 million against a loss of £414 million the previous year. The result was boosted by a one-off profit from the £171 million sale of the Pubmaster chain in November and the award of £117 million in a dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the sale price of William Hill in 1989.

Overall group turnover increased 6 per cent to £1.65 billion, while interest charges totalled £166 million.

Operating profit at William Hill rose 30 per cent to £50 million. The company put the improved performance down to betting deregulation and a strong contribution from in-store amusement machines. The company said trading since the start of the year had been encouraging. Brent Walker shares closed up ¼p at 2p. There is again no dividend.

Bloomsbury book sales 20% higher

By Martin Barrow

BLOOMSBURY Publishing, the book publisher whose authors include the controversial Will Self, achieved an 18.8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.2 million in 1996.

The company said it had high hopes for sales of Mr Self's new novel, *Great Apes*, published this week.

Yesterday Bloomsbury said pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 rose 18 per cent to £1.202 million from £1.012 million, on sales of £13.655 million, up 20 per cent from £11.37 million. Earnings rose 21.4 per cent to 9.47p a share from 7.8p and the company is paying a total dividend of 3.5p (3.4p), with a 2.8p final.

Glaxo agrees truce with Zantac rival

By Eric Reguly

GLAXO WELLCOME, the world's largest pharmaceuticals company, negotiated a truce yesterday with Novopharm that will allow the Canadian drugs company to sell a generic version of Zantac before it loses its American patent protection.

Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug that is Glaxo's best-selling product, loses its patent protection on July 25. Glaxo is to allow Novopharm to sell generic Zantac, known a ranitidine hydrochloride, for a 16-day period ending July 25 in exchange for a one-off payment. Neither company would reveal the size of the payment, which is thought to be about £75 million.

In exchange, Glaxo has agreed not to take legal action against Novopharm for breaching the deadline. Glaxo said the deal is profitable, implying the payment would more than offset the loss of Zantac sales in the period, but would not provide details.

Leslie Dan, chairman of Novopharm, said the 16 days will allow it to flood the US market with generic Zantac: "If we are the first in the market we have a huge advantage ..." Generic Zantac will sell for about half the price of the patented version.

Zantac, once the world's best-selling drug, had sales of £1 billion in the US last year, down 14 per cent from 1995. The company has predicted that generic competition will slash Zantac's US sales by as much as 80 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Watchdog fines Invesco £60,000

By Adam Jones

INVESCO Asset Management has been fined £60,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, the financial services watchdog, for lax accounting controls. The company was also ordered to pay costs of £25,500.

The rule breaches date back to 1994 and 1995. The fund manager failed to reconcile promptly company records with bank records. One personal equity plan (Pep) client account was not reconciled with bank records for 15 months. Imro rules say reconciliations should be done every five weeks.

It also failed to correct promptly reconciliation differences and to maintain written compliance procedures. Overall, more than ten accounts were affected.

Invesco warned Imro of the problems in 1995. A spokeswoman for the regulator said: "No investors have lost any money."

The problems stem from a reorganisation carried out after Invesco MIM, as the group was then called, was fined a record £750,000, plus £1.6 million in costs, by Imro in 1993.

The regulator had penalised 55 rule breaches, including Invesco's role in the Maxwell pensions scandal. The company had already been fined £75,000 for maladministration in its Pep business two years earlier.

These run-ins with Imro led to the company being completely reorganised. Tristan Hillgarth, Invesco chief executive, said that some procedures were overlooked in the transition: "We regret it happened. It was a time of great change." The group now manages £100 billion.

Mr Hillgarth said that the compliance department has been strengthened to improve Invesco's poor record with Imro. The regulator said that it was satisfied with the improvements.

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Lanica shares face large fall over CWS bid failure

SHARES in high-flying **Lanica Trust** will more than halve when trading in the shares resumes after the collapse of Andrew Regan's leveraged bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Suspended more than two months ago at £19.50, the shares are expected to be re-quoted within the next few days. The opening price is likely to be between 400p and 500p, but dealers believe the price could fall even further now that the £1.5 billion Co-op bid has been scuppered.

The Stock Exchange said it was impossible to say when Lanica would be requoted, but it is known that talks between officials and the company were taking place last night. The Stock Exchange is said to be seeking certain assurances before giving its approval.

Lanica is a thin market covered by only two market-makers, HSBC James Capel and Winterflood Securities. They will only quote a price in 500 shares at a time.

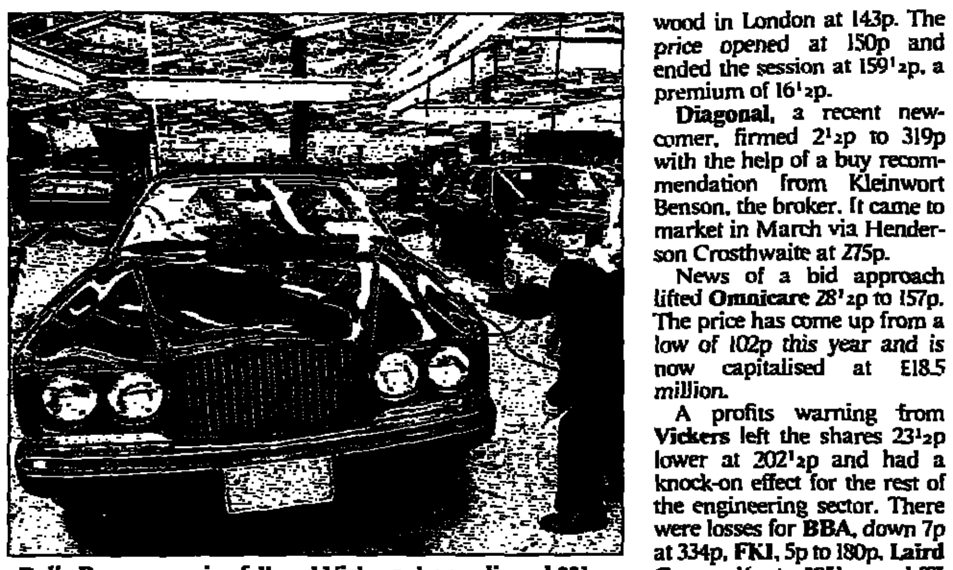
Most of the large shareholdings in Lanica are listed under nominee accounts, but sources close to the company reckon that Jupiter Tyndall had built up an undisclosed stake of less than 3 per cent prior to the suspension.

The FT-SE 100 index, having briefly risen above the 4,400 mark, ended the day almost all-square, up 0.8 at 4,388.5. Investors were cautious ahead of today's gross domestic product figures.

Turnover of 809.7 million shares was bolstered by the continuing share buyback in **LucasVarity**, 1½p easier at 191p, as nine million shares changed hands.

The profits slump at **ICI** left the price 20p lower at 700½p. Brokers say margins remain under pressure.

The profits warning from **Laura Ashley** sent the shares down 41p to close at 104p, after touching 98½p. Nick Bubb, retail analyst at MeesPierson, says: "There were a lot of positive comments about the new range. Now the company says it has bought too much of it. It's a typical Laura Ashleyfoul-up". But full marks to the investor who unloaded 3.29 million shares on Wednesday, at 145p, a 6p discount to the ruling market price.



Rolls-Royce margins fell and Vickers shares dipped 23½p

The 9p special dividend from Andrew Cohen's **Betterware** was warmly received by the City and the price responded with a jump of 10p to 122p. The door-to-door catalogue shopping group has surplus cash of almost £13 million.

Eurotunnel still remains deep in the red and the financial restructuring seems no nearer completion, but there was some relief for hapless shareholders as the price firmed 1½p to 71p. Total losses for the year of £685.3 million were in line, but the reduction in the operating loss from £192 million to £33 million was seen as positive.

GB Railways touched 191p before finishing 13p better at 184p amid reports it is trading ahead of forecast. At least one broker believes the AIM-listed shares are undervalued.

Further reflection of Wednesday's profits news and "buy" recommendations from BZW, HSBC James Capel, ABN Amro Hoare Govett, Société Generale Strauss Turnbull and Morgan Stanley lifted **Bank of Scotland** 18½p to 357p as turnover reached almost six million shares. Banks generally were marked higher.

Over on AIM, dealings got under way in shares of **Lady in Leisure**, the operator of women-only fitness centres. Placed by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 110p, the price opened at 122½p and touched 130½p before settling at 124½p, a premium of 14½p.

First-time dealings in **Qualceram**, the Irish bathroom equipment manufacturer, got off to a flying start after a placing by J&E Davy in Dublin and Teather & Greenwood in London at 143p. The price opened at 150p and ended the session at 159½p, a premium of 16½p.

Diagonal, a recent newcomer, firmed 2½p to 319p with the help of a buy recommendation from Kleinwort Benson, the broker. It came to market in March via Henderson Crosthwaite at 275p.

News of a bid approach lifted **Omnicare** 28½p to 157p. The price has come up from a low of 102p this year and is now capitalised at £18.5 million.

A profits warning from **Vickers** left the shares 23½p lower at 202½p and had a knock-on effect for the rest of the engineering sector. There were losses for **BBA**, down 7p at 334p, **FKI**, 5p to 180p, **Laird Group**, 16p to 395½p and **TI Group**, 24p to 523½p. **Siebe** was also down 20½p to 934½p on talk it may be about to make a sizeable acquisition.

Danny Bevan at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, said: "Vickers was concerned that the City may have got the wrong end of the stick".

The company exports 34 per cent of turnover from this country and is affected by a strong pound. But it has also been hurt by heavy discounting of four-door models of Rolls-Royce and Bentley luxury cars prior to the launch of a new range of models. This had hurt margins and is likely to leave profits for the year static at between £80 million and £83 million.

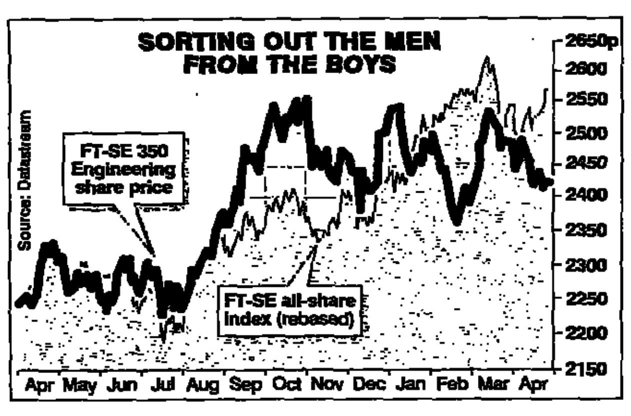
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Having marked time for much of the day, gilt prices fell sharply in late trading, reflecting similar losses among overseas bonds. Growing concern about the criteria and implementation of a single European currency were blamed.

The June series of the long gilt shed £$^{15}/_{32}$ to close at £109$^{1}/_{32}$ as turnover reached its highest level of the week with 50,000 contracts completed.

Brokers reported demand for index-linked issues, which kept prices stable, while a further steepening of the yield curve was recorded as Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £$^{19}/_{32}$ to £102$^{5}/_{32}$. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £⅛ off at £102⅜.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Allied Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

City speculators continue to chase BTG high, with the price closing a further 3½p up at 656p. Many of them are pinning their hopes on Torotrak, which does away with the need for a gearbox in cars. Whispers suggest BTG may be forming a separate company to develop and market Torotrak separately.



SORTING OUT THE MEN FROM THE BOYS

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6822.76 (+10.04)
S&P Composite	774.26 (+0.62)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18698.07 (-37.40)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	12726.83 (+19.79)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	763.16 (+4.22)
Sydney:	
AO	2474.7 (+2.4)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3397.36 (+1.41)
Singapore:	
Straits	2020.17 (-14.63)
Brussels:	
General	12373.32 (+71.82)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2539.83 (+6.19)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1001.80 (+5.70)
London:	
FT 30	2869.1 (-13.1)
FTSE 100	4388.5 (+0.8)
FTSE 250	4517.4 (-11.0)
FTSE 350	2152.0 (-0.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2206.94 (+5.20)
FTSE All-Share	2130.47 (-0.66)
FTSE Non Financials	2166.97 (-10.00)
FTSE Fixed Interest	116.82 (-0.01)
FTSE Govt Secs	93.13 (-0.70)
Bargains	47667
SEAQ Volume	809.7m
US$	1.6265 (+0.0032)
German Mark	2.7927 (+0.0120)
Exchange Index	99.6 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4242
£:SDR	1.1923
RPI	155.4 Mar (2.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	154.9 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	554½	+ 9½
Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Avalon Oil	86½	...
Avis Europe	129½	...
Bickerton	38½	...
Charlton Athletic	57½	...
Close Bros Prot VCT	95	...
Comino	139½	...
Donatantonio	74½	...
Harvey Nash	193½	...
Heal's	212½	...
Lady in Leisure	125½	...
Methven's	48	...
NMT (50)	50½	...
Newcastle Utd	124½	+ ½
Northstar Secs	28½	...
Oxford Tech Venture	95	...
Qualceram (143)	155½	...
Sibir Energy	15½	...
Soccer Investments	102½	...
Torch Hldgs	107½	...
United Overseas Grp	61½	...
Worldsec	177	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ask Central n/p (160)	35	...
Break for the Brdr (51)	1¼	...
Edge Props n/p (135)	18½	...
Luminar n/p (320)	52½	+ 1
Pembertons n/p (18)	3	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Barr & Wall .... 257½p (+24p)
Bank Scotland .... 357p (+18½p)
Andrew Sykes .... 585p (+20p)
Nat West .... 721p (+20p)
Lloyds TSB .... 552p (+15p)
De La Rue .... 559p (+12½p)
Betterware .... 122p (+10p)
Utd Assurance .... 471½p (+15p)

FALLS:
Ashley (Laura) .... 104p (-41p)
H&C Furnishing .... 246½p (-17p)
Laird .... 395½p (-16p)
Silentnight .... 337½p (-10p)
ICI .... 700½p (-20p)
P & O .... 596½p (-15p)
GKN .... 915½p (-21p)
Sage Gp .... 650p (-12½p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Taking a pounding

THE City has been fretting over the rise and rise of sterling since last August. To judge from the warning from Vickers yesterday, the full extent of the collateral damage is only just starting to become clear. A month ago, the company expected the strong pound to knock perhaps £7 million off its profits

less than 10 per cent of last year's total.

Yet suddenly it seems to have become much more difficult to sell Challenger 2 tanks overseas. Vickers is finding it harder to win export orders, and is having to accept lower margins. First-half profits will fall.

Worse, the smoke has still to clear from the battlefield. The short-term trading outlook is shaky, and may worsen further. This is not just a problem for Vickers but for many other engineering exporters.

Sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars rose 13 per cent in the first quarter. Wealthy buyers who are prepared to pay up to £1 million for their custom-built motors can afford to ignore exchange rates, but other customers will quickly start looking elsewhere.

The underperforming medical division may be sold but it is the highly cyclical automotive division that poses the greater worry. Luxury cars is such a niche business that it is tempting to forget just how big a contribution the automotive division makes to profits — £37.6 million in 1996. OK, this also includes the Cosworth engine business, but it is Rolls-Royce that delivers the cream. The new model due in a couple of year's time may arrive in a much harsher economic climate.

At 202½p, the shares are down almost a third in six months. The risks make Vickers one to avoid.

Betterware

THE LAST time Andrew Cohen made a killing from Betterware, it proved the ultimate "eject" warning. Those who missed it soon lost 84 per cent of their investment.

Although yesterday's special dividend may not be as overt a signpost as selling a huge chunk of equity, it will still unnerve investors whose memories stretch back three years.

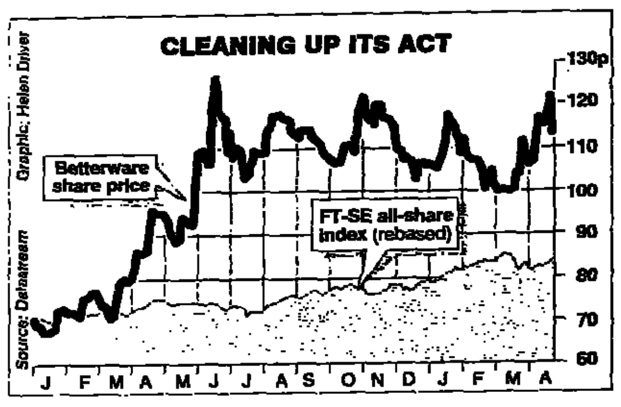
This time, the evidence suggests that Mr Cohen is giving himself a multi-million-pound slap on the back, rather than pulling out the golden parachute. If there is an accident waiting to happen, it is hard to see it.

The profits are still a far cry from their 1989 heyday, but UK underlying growth is solid, and enough to keep the recovery on course for another year or so. More risky are Betterware's plans for world domination. It has spent £2 million setting up shop in emerging markets, with precious little reward so far. Mr Cohen confidently predicts that the seeds sown will grow to deliver 10 per cent of the fruit next time.

If Betterware matches the success of Avon, its partner, Mr Cohen will have many more chances to "return value to shareholders".

And if the Latin Americans return their catalogues to sender, it will not bring the company down.

As long as the British continue to browse through Betterware on a wet Sunday afternoon, the shares are a solid hold.



CLEANING UP ITS ACT

ICI

ICI believes the prices of industrial chemicals will soon start showing some improvement. Encouraging as this is, it will take much more for ICI to cast off the ugly sister image it has acquired since it parted company with Zeneca.

Which is why the group must be casting its eye over Unilever's speciality chemicals operations. Buying one or more of them would move ICI closer to consumers, giving it an opportunity to earn better margins and providing a defence against the cyclical squeeze in commodity chemicals. Although ICI is tight-lipped on the subject, the company is in a strong negotiating position because it offers Unilever a relatively clean exit.

ICI's restructuring of its portfolio aims to reduce its bulk chemicals business from 40 per cent to 5 per cent of the total over the next ten years. It is easy to conclude that the company should be moving more quickly.

Besides the cyclical downturn and poor prices in its bulk chemicals business, ICI is suffering from the strength of sterling. On current thinking, it can expect little relief before the end of the year.

The City needs to see more evidence that ICI is committed to reinventing itself. A Unilever deal might be a start — but only a start. It is hard to find reasons to recommend British industry's former bellwether.

Glaxo Wellcome

GLAXO Wellcome's deal with Novopharm is making the best of a bad situation. Novopharm has fought a determined battle through the US courts to launch the first generic version of Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug whose huge success transformed Glaxo's fortunes over the last two decades. Novopharm won the latest round, and Glaxo had decided it is time to stop arguing. The British company will allow Novopharm to start selling its version of Zantac for 16 days before the expiry of the US patent in July.

In return, Novopharm is making a one-off payment to Glaxo, thought to be about £75 million - which works out at nearly £5 million a day.

Novopharm's bet is that this small window of opportunity will allow it seize much of the market for generic Zantac. The stakes are high: Zantac is expected to lose 80 per cent of its £1 billion of US sales to generic competition.

While £75 million is small compared to the loss of sales, the move shows the company Glaxo is finding clever ways to mitigate the damage. The formula could be used on futurepatent expiries.

The key will remain Glaxo's ability to produce new drugs from its pipeline. Recent signs suggest sales of new products may offset Zantac's decline by 1999 - making Glaxo a firm hold.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	1024-1023	Jul	1060-1056
Jul	1044-1043	Sep	1070-1066
Sep	1054-1052	Dec	1081-1079
Dec	1026-1024	Mar	1096-1091
Mar	1036-1034		
May	1049-1045		Volume: 7857

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1609-1600	Jan	1640-1630
Jul	1645-1640	Mar	1625 SLR
Sep	1660 SLR	May	unq
Nov	1660-1650		Volume: 7603

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	304.0-02.3
Spot: 306.0		May	303.5-02.0
Aug	315.5-14.5	Aug	304.9-03.0
Oct	307.5-06.2	Oct	300.9-96.0
Dec	305.0-03.0		Volume: 3351

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 23

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	98.87	135.24	92.97
(+/-)	+11.78	+3.20	+1.10
Eng/Wales:	98.87	138.33	92.38
(+/-)	+11.78	+3.14	+1.38
(%)	+12.0	+11.0	-23.0
Scotland:	unq	119.16	95.94
(+/-)	—	-1.02	-0.51
(%)	—	-20.0	-18.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.80	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.15	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.25	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	19.80	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	19.80	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	198 (n/c)	202 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	168 (+1)	170 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	80 (n/c)	82 (n/c)
Naphtha	175 (n/c)	179 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	164.50-64.75	Aug	168.25-68.50
Jun	164.75-65.00	Sep	170.00-70.50
Jul	166.25-66.75		Vol: 15606

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.13-18.15	Sep	18.41 SLR
Jul	18.21-18.24	Oct	18.38-18.45
Aug	18.28-18.34		Vol: 14478

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	96.40	May	88.00
Jul	99.50	Sep	91.50
Sep	95.60	Nov	93.50
Nov	97.60	Jan	95.50
Jan	99.60	Mar	97.50
Volume: 244		Volume: 8	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	unq	30.0
Jun	—	43.0
Nov	—	62.5
		Volume: 97

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 71.75-72.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 97	1300	1300	1284
May 97	1345	1300	1340
Jun 97	1260	1215	1260
Jul 97	1210	1165	1200
Vol: 172 lots		Open interest: 3027	

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2588.0-2590.0	2386.0-2388.0	1998725
Lead ($/tonne)	630.00-631.00	636.50-637.00	191025
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1263.0-1263.5	1286.0-1286.5	530175
Tin ($/tonne)	5712.0-5715.0	5755.0-5760.0	18580
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1574.0-1575.0	1607.0-1607.5	1689400
Nickel ($/tonne)	7415.0-7420.0	7529.0-7531.0	60228

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Alld Dom	420	27	36	42	13	19	28½
(*437½)	460	9	18	23½	37½	42	52
ASDA	110	8½	10½	12½	3	6½	7½
(*114)	120	4	6	8	8½	12	12½
Boots	650	56½	63½	70½	9½	15	20
(*696½)	700	23½	34	42½	30	36½	42½
Br Airways	650	54	67½	76½	12	19	24½
(*692½)	700	24½	39½	50	34½	41½	47½
BP	700	36½	52½	62	20½	30	37½
(*714)	750	14½	30	39	48½	59½	64½
Br Steel	140	9½	10	12½	7½	9½	13½
(*144½)	160	2½	3	5½	23½	24	27
C & W	460	34	45	53½	16½	23	29
(*478)	500	15½	26½	35	38½	44½	50½
CU	650	42	61	72	27½	48	54½
(*656)	700	21½	40½	55	58	80	87
ICI	700	30	41	53½	22½	35	40
(*700½)	750	11½	21	32½	55	67	70½
Land Sec	750	46	54	63	13	19	25
(*786½)	800	15½	28	37	40½	45	51
M & S	500	20	31	38	20	23½	28
(*504)	550	5	12½	18½	55½	57½	60
Nat West	700	49½	61½	70½	18	33½	40
(*722½)	750	24	37½	52	43	59½	65½
Safeway plc	330	24	30	36½	12	15½	20
(*340)	360	8½	16½	22½	29½	32½	36½
Sainsbury	300	29	33	36½	6	9	11
(*325½)	330	10	17	21	20	23	25½
Shell	1050	59½	82	96	21	40	47½
(*1074)	1100	33	55	69½	45	64	71
Smkl Bch	900	70	91	108½	22½	34	45½
(*940½)	950	42	64½	82	44½	56½	68½
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	114½	154½	195	52	78	91
(*1841½)	1900	67	103	142	103½	127½	138½
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAT Ind	500	45	55	66½	17½	31½	37½
(*521)	550	22½	32½	43½	43½	59	64½
Vodafone	260	22½	31	36½	8½	13½	17
(*272½)	280	12	21	26	18½	23½	26½
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	500	18½	32	40	7	19½	23½
(*508)	550	2	11½	18½	42	49	53
Ladbroke	220	17	24	28	1½	5	8½
(*235)	240	4½	12½	17	9	13½	17
Utd Bisc	220	9½	18	22	4	9	14
(*225)	240	1½	9	13	16	20	25

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	500	40	48½	56½	9	13½	18½
(*530)	550	11½	22½	31½	33½	38	43
Thames W	650	47½	54	59½	29	33½	41½
(*676½)	700	22	30½	37½	58	62	69½
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	240	17	25	28½	2½	6½	10
(*254½)	260	4½	13½	17½	10½	14½	19½
Br Aero	1350	36	80	106	27½	50½	65
(*1352½)	1400	13½	56	81	57	77½	91
Br Telcm	420	33½	43½	46	1	14	17
(*450½)	460	7	19½	23	14½	35½	37
Cadbury	500	21½	37½	44½	5½	15	20½
(*514)	550	2½	15	22½	36½	43	47
Guinness	500	23	39½	47½	5	13	17
(*517)	550	3	14	23½	34	39½	43
GEC	360	12½	22	27½	5	17	20½
(*365½)	390	1½	9	14½	25	36½	39½
Hanson	300	9½	21	25½	8	15½	20½
(*300)	330	1	9	13½	30	34½	38½
LASMO	220	15½	23	29	3½	9	11
(*231)	240	5½	13½	19	13½	18½	20
LucasVarity	180	13½	18	22	2	6	9½
(*191)	200	3	8	12½	11	16½	20
Pilkingtn	110	9	12	—	1½	5½	—
(*117)	120	3	7	—	9½	11	—
Prudential	550	35½	53½	63	4½	14½	22½
(*579)	600	9½	26	37	26½	37½	46½
Redland	330	28½	32	40	4½	13	18
(*356½)	360	7½	16½	25½	20½	28½	31½
R-Royce	240	8½	18½	24	6½	13	16½
(*241½)	260	1½	10	15	19½	24½	27
Tesco	360	13	25½	31½	6	13	18
(*366½)	390	2	11½	18	25	29½	34½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4392½)

	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500
Calls						
May	172	129½	91	59½	36	19½
Jun	208½	169	135	104½	78	56
Jul	238	197½	164	133	106	83
Aug	250½	216	184½	153	126½	103
Dec	—	307	—	242	—	190
Puts						
May	17	25½	38	57½	84½	118½
Jun	46	58	74	94½	119	146½
Jul	64	76½	92	110½	134	161
Aug	78	93½	111½	130	154½	181½
Dec	—	138½	—	175	—	223½

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Abby Nat	800	59	75½	91½	21	36	43
(*827)	850	32	50	65	44½	60	67
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1100	63½	84	106½	35	56	67
(*1110½)	1150	40	60½	81½	62½	82½	92½
Nat Pwr	500	41½	45	48½	24	28½	33
(*523½)	550	16½	21½	25½	53	57½	61
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo W	1150	58½	77½	103	38	59	67½
(*1157½)	1200	35	54	79	65½	87	94½
HSBC	1500	131½	160½	193	30½	54½	70½
(*1582)	1600	72½	105	140½	71½	99½	110½
Reuter	600	45	59	74½	17	25	33
(*620)	650	21	35	49½	43	50½	58
Royal & Sun	460	27	39	47	16	25	30½
(*469½)	500	11	21½	29½	39½	47½	52½
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	420	13	28	35½	9	17½	24½
(*423)	460	1	11½	18½	37½	42	47½
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfishr	650	28	48½	59½	7½	19	27
(*668)	700	5½	24½	34½	35½	45½	52½
	Series	Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	240	8	—	—	15½	—	—
(*241)	260	2	—	—	29½	—	—
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Dixons	500	26	37½	48½	15½	28½	37
(*507½)	550	8	18½	27	47	57½	62
EMI Group	1200	56½	86½	106	32	58½	71½
(*1212½)	1250	33½	63	84	58	85½	98½
Tarmac	110	16	19	20½	1½	2½	5
(*124)	120	8½	12½	14½	4	6	9
Hillsdwn	190	7	9	—	8	10	—
(*185)	200	1	2½	—	24½	25	—
Lonrho	130	10½	13½	16½	2½	5½	7½
(*136)	140	5	8½	11½	7	11	12
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	15	21	24	6	14	15½
(*266½)	280	6	11½	14½	16½	25	27½
Lloyds TSB	500	62½	72½	84½	3½	10	16½
(*555½)	550	26½	40½	54½	17½	28	36
Scot Pwr	360	24½	32½	36	9	17	19½
(*375½)	390	9	17½	21	23½	33	36
Unilever	1600	67	104½	129½	23½	37½	50
(*1631)	1700	20½	55	77	77½	90	100

April 24, 1997 Tot: 53797 Call: 32682 Put: 21115 FTSE Call: 7640 Put: 2444
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 97	109-17	109-22	108-31	109-01	55845
Previous open interest: 174395	Sep 97	108-26	108-28	108-26	108-27	113
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	100.77	101.05	100.55	100.57	184570
Previous open interest: 286602	Sep 97	99.87	99.95	99.54	99.50	3696
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	127.43	127.82	126.78	126.92	57640
Previous open interest: 109426	Sep 97	127.90	127.90	127.40	127.12	323
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	126.64	126.72	126.52	126.55	2645
	Sep 97	125.44	125.47	125.32	125.32	309
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.39	93.39	93.35	93.36	12486
	Sep 97	93.11	93.13	93.07	93.09	11422
Previous open interest: 462603	Dec 97	92.85	92.88	92.82	92.85	8566
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.75	96.76	96.75	96.75	19459
Previous open interest: 1339167	Sep 97	96.70	96.72	96.70	96.70	20034
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	93.18	93.21	93.10	93.11	23661
Previous open interest: 318217	Sep 97	93.42	93.50	93.37	93.38	16473
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97				99.20	0
	Dec 97	99.09	99.02	98.99	99.01	2
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.12	98.16	98.11	98.14	14092
Previous open interest: 116858	Sep 97	98.06	98.10	98.06	98.08	15271
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.79	95.81	95.74	95.75	2322
Previous open interest: 32779	Sep 97	95.79	95.81	95.74	95.74	1112
FTSE 100	Jun 97	4402.0	4422.0	4394.0	4412.0	10946
Previous open interest: 64502	Sep 97	4430.0	4449.0	4430.0	4480.0	98

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5¾ Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth: 6⅛ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6¼	6⅝-6½	7-6⅞
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6¼	6⅝-6½	7-6⅞

Overnight: open 6⅛, close 5¾ .

Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6¼	6½	6⅞
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6¼	6⅝-6½	6⅞-6⅞
Dollar CDs:	5.57	n/a	5.73	5.94	6.27
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6⅝-6½	6⅞-6⅞

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5¾-5⅝	6-5⅞	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅜-3⅛	3⅜-3⅛	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1¾-1⅝	2½-1½
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $340.70-341.00 Close: $340.50-341.00 High: $341.30-341.80 Low: $339.90-340.40 AM: $341.15 PM: $340.90

Krugerrand: $339.75-341.75 (£209.00-211.00)

Platinum: $374.50 (£230.55) **Silver:** $4.72 (£2.895) **Palladium:** $157.00 (£96.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 24	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1285-3.1427	3.1399-3.1427	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	57.370-57.701	57.584-57.701	16-11pr	48-41pr
Copenhagen	10.592-10.638	10.629-10.638	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Dublin	1.0468-1.0501	1.0481-1.0494	7-3pr	21-15pr
Frankfurt	2.7815-2.7940	2.7907-2.7940	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Lisbon	278.49-280.26	279.96-280.26	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Madrid	234.24-235.73	235.51-235.73	16-5pr	58-40pr
Milan	2758.9-2777.3	2774.8-2777.3	12-26ds	26-47ds
Montreal	2.2516-2.2653	2.2631-2.2653	0.61-0.56pr	1.17-1.09pr
New York	1.6185-1.6268	1.6258-1.6268	0.077-0.057pr	0.243-0.212pr
Oslo	11.426-11.510	11.495-11.510	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Paris	9.3740-9.4265	9.4178-9.4265	2⅛-2pr	6⅛-6⅛pr
Stockholm	12.391-12.478	12.458-12.478	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	204.19-205.23	204.96-205.23	⅛-⅛pr	3-2⅛pr
Vienna	19.567-19.665	19.640-19.665	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3731-2.3800	2.3772-2.3800	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2886-1.2894
Austria	12.09-12.10
Belgium (Com)	35.45-35.46
Canada	1.3914-1.3919
Denmark	6.5415-6.5435
France	5.7949-5.7959
Germany	1.7175-1.7185
Hong Kong	7.7470-7.7480
Ireland	1.5500-1.5510
Italy	1703.25-1706.25
Japan	126.05-126.15
Malaysia	2.5050-2.5060
Netherlands	1.9317-1.9322
Norway	7.0581-7.0654
Portugal	172.30-172.40
Singapore	1.4432-1.4442
Spain	144.74-144.79
Sweden	7.6685-7.6735
Switzerland	1.4625-1.4635

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6260-1.6287
Australia dollar	2.0951-2.0977
Bahrain dinar	0.6065-0.6185
Brazil real*	1.7214-1.7258
China yuan	13.312-13.612
Cyprus pound	0.8235-0.8335
Finland markka	8.3275-8.4435
Greece drachma	439.0-446.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.5966-12.6037
India rupee	57.61-58.57
Indonesia rupiah	3917.0-3985.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4885-0.4985
Malaysia ringgit	4.0731-4.0765
New Zealand dollar	2.3494-2.3528
Pakistan rupee	64.80 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8525-5.9765
Singapore dollar	2.3456-2.3487
S Africa rand (com)	7.1830-7.2850
U A E dirham	5.9025-6.0265

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	634	Land Secs	2,000
ASDA Gp	22,600	Legal & Gn	9,200
Abbey Ntl	3,700	Lloyds TSB	15,000
Allied Dom	2,000	LucasVarity	9,000
AB Foods	1,400	Marks Spr	6,100
BAA	2,600	Mercury Asset	194
BAT Inds	9,400	NatWst Bk	6,200
BG	9,000	Nat Grid	17,400
BOC	893	Nat Power	2,300
BP	6,300	Next	2,300
BSkyB	2,800	Orange	574
BTR	7,700	P & O	4,200
BT	17,300	Pearson	2,100
Bk of Scot	6,700	PowerGen	1,400
Barclays	9,500	Prudential	4,200
Bass	2,100	RMC	285
Blue Circle	2,100	RTZ	2,000
Boots	1,300	Railtrack	2,400
BAe	1,300	Rank Group	3,400
BA	3,700	Reckitt Col	3,400
British Land	860	Reed Intl	502
Brit Steel	10,700	Rentokil Intl	1,200
Burmah Cstl	137	Reuters	8,600
Burton	5,900	Rolls Royce	3,100
Cable Wire	3,000	Royal & Sun	4,400
Cadbury	1,500	Royal Bk Sct	2,000
Carlton Cms	1,300	Safeway	3,900
Centrica	8,000	Sainsbury	986
Cm Union	2,400	Schroders	451
Dixons	274	Scot & New	1,500
EMI	179	Scot Power	1,900
Energy Gp	2,700	Svrn Trent	2,600
Enterpr Oil	1,100	Shell Trans	3,100
GKN	845	Siebe	1,900
GRE	5,300	SmKl Bch	2,800
GUS	2,300	Smith Nph	1,300
Gen Acc	2,100	Smiths Inds	669
Gen Elec	6,800	Std Chartd	2,000
Glaxo Well	4,700	TI Gp	2,100
Granada	3,100	Tate & Lyle	1,900
Grand Met	3,100	Tesco	2,300
Guinness	2,400	Thames W	574
HSBC	2,600	Tomkins	3,300
Hanson	2,600	Unilever	2,500
Hays	1,600	Utd Utilities	346
ICI	6,700	Utd News	860
Imp Tob	1,100	Vodafone	4,400
Kingfisher	6,100	Whitbread	853
LASMO	665	Wolseley	786
Ladbroke	4,800	Zeneca	882

WALL STREET

	Apr 24 midday	Apr 23 close
AMP Inc	35¾	35⅞
AMR Corp	92⅝	92
AT & T	31⅛	31½
Abbott Labs	59¼	56⅝
Advanced Micro	38⅛	37⅛
Aetna Life	86⅞	85⅜
Ahmanson (HF)	36⅛	36⅜
Air Prod & Chem	69⅛	69⅞
AirTouch Comm	23⅜	23⅞
Albertson's	32⅜	32⅜
Alcan Aluminum	33⅜	33
Allied Signal	73⅛	73⅝
Alum Co of Am	70⅞	69⅞
Amerada Hess	49⅞	49⅞
Amer Brands	53⅞	53⅛
Amer El Power	40⅞	40⅞
Amer Express	62⅞	61⅞
Amer Genl Corp	40⅜	40⅞
Amer Home Pr	64⅛	63⅛
Amer Intl	119	118
Amer Stores	45	44⅞
Amer Standard	44	43⅞
Ameritech	57⅛	57⅞
Amoco	83½	83⅞
Andrew Corp	25	25
Anheuser-Busch	42⅞	42½
Apple Computer	18⅛	18⅞
Archer Daniels	18⅛	18⅞
Armco	3⅞	3⅞
Armstrng Wrld	64⅞	64⅛
Asarco	28⅞	28⅜
Atl Richfield	134	134
Auto Data Pro	44⅞	44⅛
Avery Dennison	36	35⅞
Avon Products	57	57
Baker Hughes	36⅛	37⅞
Baltim Gas & El	25⅞	25⅜
Banc One	41⅛	41⅛
BankAmerica	109⅞	107⅞
Bank of NY	36⅛	36⅛
Bankers Tr NY	78⅛	78⅛
Barnett Banks	46½	46
Bausch & Lomb	39⅛	40⅞
Baxter Intl	46⅞	46⅛
Bectn Dicknsn	46⅛	46⅛
Bell Atlantic	59⅜	59⅛
Bell Industries	16	16⅜
BellSouth	42⅞	41⅜
Black & Decker	32⅞	31⅛
Block (H&R)	30⅜	30⅞
Boeing	101⅛	101⅛
Boise Cascade	32⅞	31⅜
Boston Scien	42⅞	42⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	62⅞	62⅞
Browning Ferris	27⅜	27⅞
Brunswick	27⅞	27⅞
Burlington Nthn	75⅜	74⅜
CMS Energy Corp	32⅞	32⅛
CNA Financial	98⅞	98
CPC Intl	82⅞	82⅜
CSX	47⅞	47⅛
Campbell Soup	48⅛	48⅛
Can Pacific	24⅛	23⅛
Carolina Pwr	34⅛	34⅞
Case Corp	56⅛	56⅜
Caterpillar	90⅛	89⅛
Central & SW	18⅛	18⅞
Champion Intl	46½	45⅛
Chase Manhat	86⅛	85⅛
Chevron Corp	67⅛	66⅛
Chrysler	30⅛	30⅜
Chubb Corp	55⅞	55⅜
Cigna Corp	147⅞	145⅜
Citicorp	104⅛	104
Clorox	123⅜	122⅞
Coastal Corp	46⅞	46⅜
Coca Cola	61	60
Coca Cola Ent	60⅜	59⅞
Colgate-Palm	108	108
Columbia Gas	60⅞	60⅞
ColumbiaHCA	35⅜	34⅛
Compaq Comp	78⅞	76⅛
Comp Ass Intl	46⅞	44
Conagra	57⅞	57⅞
Conrail	113⅞	113⅛
Cons Edison	27⅞	27⅞
Cons Nat Gas	48⅛	48⅞
Cooper Inds	45⅞	44⅛
Corestates	50⅞	49⅞
Corning Inc	47⅛	46⅛
Crown Cork	55⅛	55
Dana Corp	31⅜	31⅜
Dayton Hudson	41⅛	41⅛
Deere	46⅛	46⅜
Delta Air Lines	88	88⅛
Deluxe Corp	30⅞	31
Digital Equip	30⅛	29⅛
Dillard Dept St	30⅞	30⅞
Disney (Walt)	79	79⅜
Dominion Res	34⅛	34⅞
Donelley (RR)	33⅞	33⅞
Dover Corp	53⅛	53⅛
Dow Chemical	81⅜	79⅞
Dow Jones	39⅞	39⅛
Dresser	29⅞	29⅛
Duke Power	43⅜	43⅜
Dun & Bradstreet	24⅜	24⅜
Du Pont	104⅞	105⅜
Eastman Chem	52⅞	52⅞
Eastman Kodak	80⅞	81⅜

	Apr 24 midday	Apr 23 close
Eaton Corp	75⅞	75
Edison Intl	20⅜	20⅞
Elect Data Sys	44⅞	43
Emerson Elec	49⅞	49⅛
Engelhard Corp	21⅜	21⅛
Enron Corp	37⅜	37
Entergy	23⅜	23⅞
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	55⅛	55
FMC Corp	64⅛	63⅞
FPL Group	43⅜	43⅞
Federal Express	53⅛	53⅛
First Bk Sys	73⅞	72⅛
First Union Rlty	13⅞	13⅜
Fleet Finl Grp	59⅞	58⅞
Fluor Corp	53⅞	53⅞
Ford Motor	34⅛	34⅞
GTE Corp	44⅛	44⅞
Gannett	85	85⅞
Gap Inc Del	30⅞	30⅞
Gencorp	18⅛	19
Gen Dynamics	72⅞	71⅛
Gen Electric	107⅞	107⅞
Gen Mills	58	58⅜
Gen Motors	56⅛	56⅛
Gen Reinsurance	161⅜	160⅞
Gen Signal	39⅞	39⅞
Genuine Parts	31⅛	31⅛
Georgia Pac	77⅞	76
Gillette	80⅞	80
Glaxo Wellc ADR	37⅞	37⅞
Goodrich (BF)	37⅞	37
Goodyear Tire	52⅞	52
Gt Atl Pac Tea	24⅞	24
Great Wstn Fin	40⅞	40⅞
Halliburton	72⅞	73⅛
Harcourt General	43⅞	43⅜
Heinz (HJ)	41⅛	41
Hercules	40⅞	40⅞
Hershey Foods	54⅛	55
Hewlett Packard	50⅞	49⅞
Hilton Hotels	26⅛	26⅜
Home Depot	57⅞	57⅞
Homestake Mng	13⅛	13⅛
Honeywell	69⅞	70
Household Intl	82⅞	80⅞
Houston Inds	19⅜	19⅞
Humana	20⅞	20⅞
ITT Corp	57⅞	58⅛
Ikon Office	22⅞	21⅛
Illinois Tool	90⅞	90⅜
Illinova	20⅞	20⅞
INCO	32⅜	32⅜
Ingersoll Rand	48⅜	47⅛
Inland Steel	22⅜	21⅛
Intel Corp	148⅜	146⅞
IBM	153⅛	142⅜
Intl Flav & Fr	42⅞	42
Intl Paper	42⅞	41⅞
James River Va	29⅛	28⅜
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	58⅞	58
Kellogg	66⅛	66⅜
Kerr-McGee	60⅜	60
Kimberly-Clark	51	50⅞
Kmart	13⅞	12⅞
Knight-Ridder	37⅛	37⅞
Lilly (Eli)	85⅞	85⅛
Limited Inc	17⅞	17⅜
Lincoln Nat	52⅞	53⅞
Litton	42	41⅛
Liz Claiborne	45⅞	45⅞
Lockheed Martin	89⅞	89⅞
Louisiana Pac	18⅞	18⅞
MCI Comm	38⅞	36⅞
Manpower Inc	37⅛	38⅛
Marriott Int	53⅞	53⅛
Marsh & McLnn	115⅞	115⅜
Masco Corp	37⅛	37⅞
May Dept St	45⅞	45⅛
Maytag Corp	21⅛	22
McDonalds	51⅞	51⅛
McDonnell D	60⅜	60⅞
McGraw Hill	52⅞	52⅞
Mead Corp	54⅛	53⅞
Medtronic	67⅞	67
Mellon Bk	77⅞	77⅛
Merck Inc	88⅞	87⅞
Merrill Lynch	90⅛	89⅞
Microsoft	117⅞	115⅞
Minnesota Mine	86⅛	86
Mobil Corp	125⅞	125⅛
Monsanto	40	39⅜
Morgan (JP)	96	96⅛
Motorola Inc	58⅛	58⅛
Natl Semi	24⅛	23⅛
Natl Service Ind	41⅛	41⅛
Navistar Intl	9⅞	9⅞
NY Times A	41⅛	41⅛
Newmont Mng	35⅛	35⅛
Niag Mohawk	8⅞	8⅛
Nike B	54⅛	53⅛
NL Industries	9⅞	9⅞
Noram Energy	14⅛	14⅜
Nordstrom	37⅞	37⅜
Norfolk Sthrn	90⅞	90
Nthn State Pwr	45⅞	45⅛
Norwest Corp	47⅛	46⅛
Nynex Corp	44⅛	44⅛
Occidental Pet	22⅜	22⅞
Ohio Edison	21	20⅞

	Apr 24 midday	Apr 23 close
Oracle	38⅛	37⅛
Oryx Energy Co	19⅜	19⅛
Owens Corning	39⅞	39⅜
PHH Corp	47	46⅛
PPG Industries	53⅜	53
PNC Bank	39⅜	38⅞
PP&L Res	19⅜	19⅛
Paccar Inc	75⅛	74⅜
Pacificorp	19⅜	19⅛
Pac Enterprises	30⅜	30⅜
Pall Corp	23⅛	23⅛
Parker Hannifin	49⅞	48⅞
Peco Energy	19⅜	19⅜
Penney (JC)	46⅛	46⅞
Pennzoil	48	48⅜
Pepsico	33⅛	33⅞
Pfizer	92⅞	92⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	30	30⅜
Phelps Dodge	77⅛	76⅛
Philip Morris	41⅛	40⅞
Phillips Pet	39⅞	38⅛
Pitney Bowes	60⅛	59⅞
Polaroid	45	45⅜
Procter & Gmbl	125⅞	125⅞
Providian	55⅞	55⅜
Pub Serv E & G	23⅞	23⅜
Quaker Oats	40⅞	39⅜
Ralston Purina	82⅞	82⅜
Raychem Corp	61⅛	62
Raytheon	43⅞	43⅞
Reebok Intl	37⅛	37⅞
Reynolds Metals	67⅞	68⅜
Rockwell Intl	67	67⅜
Rohm & Haas	75⅞	75⅛
Royal Dutch	178⅛	177⅛
Rubbermaid	24⅛	24⅛
SBC Comms	51⅞	51⅛
Safeco Corp	39⅛	38⅜
St Paul's Cos	65⅜	64⅛
Salomon Inc	51	50⅜
Sara Lee Corp	42⅞	40⅞
Schering Plough	76⅛	76⅜
Schlumberger	112⅜	113
Seagram	38	37⅛
Sears Roebuck	48⅜	48⅞
Shell Trans	105	104⅜
Sherwin Wlms	28⅞	28⅞
Skyline Corp	21⅜	21⅜
Snap-On-Tools	37⅞	37⅞
Southern Co	20⅜	20⅞
Sprint Corp	43⅛	43⅜
Stanley Works	37⅞	37⅜
Sun Company	25⅜	24⅞
Sun Microsys	27⅛	27⅜
Suntrust	48⅜	47⅞
Supervalu	29⅛	29⅜
Sysco Corp	34⅜	34⅞
TRW Inc	50⅞	50⅞
TCC Inds	1⅞	1⅞
TIG Hldgs	28⅞	28⅜
Tandem Comp	12⅞	12⅞
Tandy Corp	50⅜	49⅞
Temple Inland	54⅛	53
Tenneco	39⅜	39⅜
Texaco	109⅞	105⅞
Texas Inst	84⅞	83⅞
Texas Utilities	32⅜	32⅞
Textron	108⅞	108⅞
Time Warner	43⅞	45
Times-Mirror A	54⅛	55
Timken	59⅞	55
Torchmark	57⅛	56⅛
Toys R Us	28⅞	26⅛
Transamerica	83⅞	83⅛
Travelers	50⅜	49⅞
Tribune	42⅞	42⅞
Tyco Intl	60⅞	59⅜
UST Inc	26⅛	26⅛
UAL	78⅜	80⅜
US Inds	35⅛	35⅜
US West Comm	31⅛	32
US West Media	16⅛	17
USAirways Group	33⅛	34⅜
USX Marathon	27⅛	27⅛
Unicom	19⅜	19⅛
Unilever NV	195⅞	194⅞
Union Camp	48⅛	47⅛
Union Carbide	48⅜	48⅞
Union Pacific	61⅛	60⅜
Unisys Corp	6⅛	6⅛
USF&G Corp	19⅜	19⅞
US Life	46⅞	46⅛
United Tech	77⅜	77⅛
Unocal Corp	37⅞	37⅛
VF Corp	68⅜	68⅞
WMX Tech	29⅜	29⅜
Wal-Mart Stores	28	28⅛
Warner-Lambert	98	98⅛
Wells Fargo	254	250
Westinghouse El	18	18⅛
Weyerhaeuser	46⅛	45⅜
Whirlpool	46½	46⅞
Whitman	23⅜	23⅛
Winn Dixie	34⅛	34⅞
Woolworth	18⅞	18⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58⅞	58⅞
Xerox	60⅞	59⅞
Yellow Corp	21	20⅞
Zenith Elect	11⅜	11⅛

Ethical business practice in the spotlight

A £1.2 BILLION takeover bid has just collapsed, brought down by allegations of sharp practice and potential criminality. A day earlier, protesters outside General Accident's annual meeting in Perth, demanding that the insurer sell its shares in Shell, the oil group, because of its attitude towards the environment. Business ethics are coming under scrutiny as never before.

So it was appropriate that yesterday should have seen the final round in this year's Business Ethics competition, sponsored by NatWest Group and *The Times*.

Few senior businessmen would relish the situation that our six undergraduate finalists were asked to envisage: being under siege by rampant pressure groups and a highly critical media.

It was to encourage consideration and debate on business ethics that NatWest and *The Times* launched this competition three years ago. Yesterday Owain Evans, 18, an economics student from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, became the latest winner, with a cheque for £3,000, and a similar amount *to his university*.

The judges — Derek Wanless, NatWest chief executive, John Monks, *General Secretary of the TUC, John Drummond, managing director of Integrity Works, a specialist business ethics consultancy, Julia Neuberger, chairman of Camden & Islington* NHS Trust, and *Patience Wheatcroft, business editor of The Times — felt that Owain's grasp of ethical issues and the way they should be handled gave him the edge over his rivals.*

Nicola Grant from Kingston University came second and Fiona Flintan from Wye College, University of London, came third.

Each had been asked to *put themselves behind the desk of the chairman of* Go-Build, a construction firm engaged on building a road that was, inevitably, not to everyone's liking. Protesters in the Swampy mould were on the attack and Go-Build had to contend with the dilemma of reconciling the interests of investors, employees, clients and demonstrators.

Most of our finalists demonstrated a trusting belief in the fact that the demonstrators would be amenable to rational discussion and that good communication could do much to cope with the problem. Businessmen might have taken them to issue on that point. But what business should note is that our bright youngsters almost all shared certain strong views on what constitutes ethical behaviour. *In particular, they emphasised the need* for business to care for the environment and advocated policies *which could hit the profits that might otherwise go to shareholders.* Their cry was for companies to look to the long *term*, with the optimistic refrain that ethical behaviour would bring its rewards eventually.

We must hope that their idealism will not be compromised in coming years.

PATIENCE WHEATCROFT

ECONOMIC VIEW

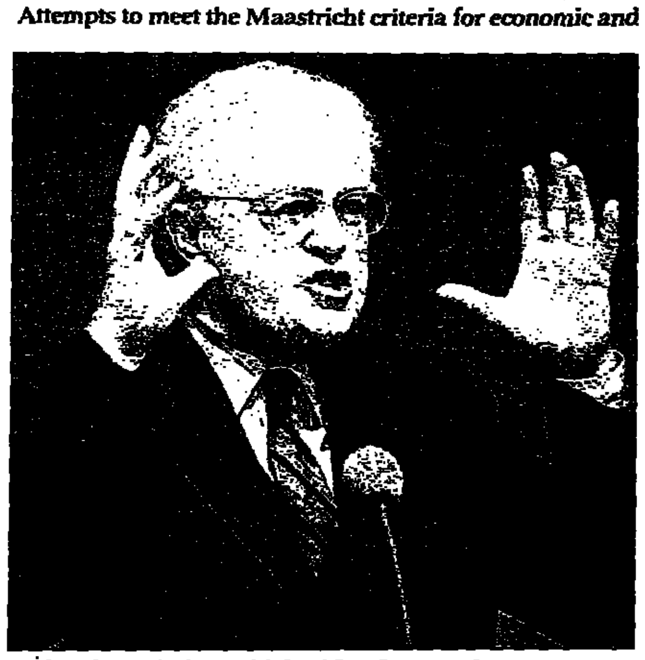
ANATOLE KALETSKY

Fair blows the wind from France for Eurosceptics

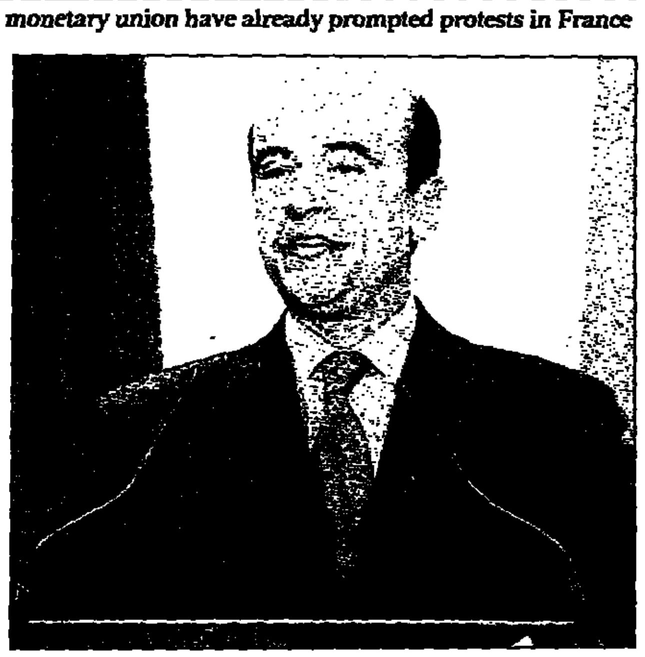
Chirac's dash to the polls increases the chances of EMU's launch being delayed

PLAN JUPPÉ - BARRAGE
SANCTIONS DES MEDECINS = RATIONNEMENT DES SOINS

Attempts to meet the Maastricht criteria for economic and monetary union have already prompted protests in France



Lionel Jospin has criticised EMU austerity measures



Alain Juppé could find himself relying on Eurosceptics

At last, an excuse to forget this futile and empty election campaign. Something much more important and unpredictable is happening across the Channel. President Chirac's sudden decision to dissolve the French Parliament is one of those rare political events which hit the world completely by surprise and necessitate a total reassessment of crucial assumptions about the economic outlook. In fact, Chirac's bolt from the blue could be compared with the Danish and French referendums of 1992, which set off the chain of events that culminated in White Wednesday, or the the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which had no permanent effect on the oil price, *but tipped the American and world economies into recession and led to the downfall of George Bush.*

The assumption that France and Germany would inevitably join together in a monetary union was one that realistic Euro-sceptics like myself have long accepted — despite our conviction that such a union would be a dangerous folly. On Monday evening, however, this assumption of inevitability was undermined. Overnight the probability that EMU would proceed on schedule fell from something like 95 per cent to nearer the 60 per cent or so that senior Bundesbank officials have always claimed to believe in. There is even a chance that the whole single currency project could now be postponed *sine die* and that Europe will move towards a different programme for economic integration and enlargement in the years ahead.

The very subdued reaction in the political world and the financial markets can be explained in two ways. First is the rabbit in the headlights effect. So many people have bet so firmly on the inevitability of EMU, that paralysis and denial are the natural first reactions to an event that could blow the whole process apart.

Secondly, there is the fallacy of the rational politician. Chirac, it is said, didn't have to call this election; therefore he wouldn't have called it unless he was sure he would win. Furthermore, Chirac is committed to EMU; ergo he would not do anything that would put EMU at risk.

These arguments, which I keep hearing from political and financial analysts, are absurd. Politicians are always making mistakes. If they keep blundering in their economic policies, their diplomacy and everything else they do, why should we assume that they are omniscient when it comes to foreseeing how people will vote? The fact is that President Chirac did not call the election because he knew he would win it. More likely, he feared he would lose if he waited until next March. As for Chirac's alleged commitment to the single currency, it is worth recalling that President Mitterrand, who was far more of a Europhile than the current president, almost destroyed the EMU process with his capricious decision to call a referendum on Maastricht in the summer of 1992.

Setting aside assumptions about the political omniscience of the French Government, there are three possible outcomes of this election campaign. The election could be lost by the Right. It could be won by the Right, but with a small majority. Finally, the Right could win decisively. Let us consider the implications of each possibility for EMU.

If the Right loses, EMU could be wrecked. While the French Socialists support EMU in principle, *their only chance of winning would be to run against the austerity policies needed to hit the Maastricht targets — as indeed M Jospin has already done in the opening speeches of the campaign.* But as the campaign progresses, the Socialists could go further to threaten the EMU process. They could decide to spice up their rhetoric with a dash of anti-German chauvinism which might appeal to the rapidly growing National Front vote. More probably, they could avoid any charges of xenophobia by finding common cause with the more sober elements of the German Social Democrats, the British Labour Party and the Italian left, all of which in different ways are moving towards similar policies of delaying EMU, while *their countries give priority to* economic growth, "social cohesion" and the fight against unemployment.

A French Socialist victory on such a manifesto, far from antagonising Germany, could embolden opponents of EMU on the German left and weaken the uncertain electoral prospects for Helmut Kohl. Adverse market reaction to any signs of a Socialist victory which might emerge during the campaign could turn all this into a reflexive process — a financial crisis would raise the cost of convergence to politically unsupportable levels and that in turn would feed more market speculation and add to political uncertainty. This is exactly what happened in Italy, Spain, Scandinavia and Britain in the autumn of 1992, *during the last few weeks of the* French referendum campaign.

It is, of course, possible that, even if the Socialists were elected, they would perform an immediate U-turn and implement the EMU-inspired austerity policies they denounced during the campaign. This is the general assumption in the financial markets.

To me it seems a rash assumption — not because politicians are normally true to their campaign promises, but because a decent interval usually has to elapse before a newly elected government can make a U-turn. *In this case, however, the EMU timetable would require a U-turn virtually the day after the election.*

Now consider the political outcome that is marginally more probable according to opinion polls — a victory for the Right. If the Right wins by a narrow margin, a core EMU will remain likely, no longer certain. The election campaign itself would widen fissures between Alain Juppé and the anti-EMU factions on the Right. If the result were a very narrow victory, Juppé's position would be in jeopardy and other leaders, less enthusiastic about the EMU project, would immediately start manoeuvring to take his place. Worse, M Juppé would have to rely on the Euro-sceptics for votes and would have to heed their views (it is worth recalling the sudden power influence of the Euro-sceptics in Britain after the Tories' narrow victory in 1992). The French Government would have even less backbone *than it did in 1995 when faced with strikes and popular pressure.* There could *be serious and persistent* uncertainty about EMU right up until April 1998.

Only if the Right wins decisively, will EMU be certain to go ahead. But since the markets have already priced in a 100 per cent probability of the German and French currencies merging, there is little for investors to gain by betting on this outcome.

This leads to the biggest danger for the EMU process — the impact of the six-week campaign itself on financial markets. *Until the votes are counted, neither the markets nor the politicians will know whether this is the option the French electorate chooses. The one thing that seems certain is* that there will be numerous political scares and setbacks for the EMU cause between now and June 1. The market's complacent idea that the Right will enjoy a commanding lead from the start of the campaign to the finish simply does not seem plausible — not after the close vote in the 1995 presidential elections, when Lionel Jospin came within an ace of an upset victory over Chirac, and the even narrower margin in the 1992 Maastricht referendum — which President Mitterrand was convinced he would win by a landslide.

And as in 1992, any market turmoil during the campaign will itself affect the outcome. *In 1992, when Mitterrand's referendum was the proximate cause of White Wednesday, the main impact of the uncertainty about French politics was felt not in France* but in Britain, Scandinavia *and* Italy. This time again the initial market turmoil *may hit* peripheral countries such as Italy and Spain. But the European economies and the Franco-German political consensus on EMU are much weaker today than they were in 1992. This time an EMU-related financial crisis in the Mediterranean could destroy the fragile political support for the whole single currency project in France.

Returning for a moment to parochial British politics, it would be a supremely ironic *epilogue to our election: the single-currency monster that destroyed both Margaret* Thatcher and John Major, miraculously slain by French voters within a month of the Tories losing power.

Dead or alive: what's best for Eurotunnel's shareholders?

Small investors have a bigger say than the banks, according to **Jason Nissé**

The French trawlermen *blockading the Channel ports* gave Eurotunnel a fantastic publicity coup yesterday *morning* as it announced its full-year results. City anaylsts travelling to the meeting in Folkestone passed queues of trucks waiting to board ferries which were resolutely not cross-Channel. Robert Malpas, who took over as co-chairman of Eurounnel from the much-loathed Sir Alastair *Morton* earlier *this* year, *found it hard to suppress* a smile. *"They could have blockaded in a month's* time," he joked.

Even better would be *in* two month's time when the tunnel will be open *for* freight traffic (assuming it can get its safety certificate). The need for Eurotunnel to win back the level of business that it had before last November's fire will be critical to the refinancing of the group's £8.7 billion of debts. But Eurotunnel will be hoping the direct action, which is so much a part of the French mentality, will not be in evidence on July 10 when it hopes shareholders will approve the restructuring deal.

Unlike most public companies *in* the UK or France, *institutional* investors *do not* control Eurotunnel. *About* 80 *per cent of the company's shares are held by small investors* and *more* than 85 *per cent of those are French.* The *company needs* representatives of a quarter of its 700,000 shareholders to turn up for the meeting even to go ahead.

Three different action groups are lining up against the board. They are unhappy about the amount of the cake that is being handed to the banks. Under the deal first unveiled last October the shareholders would see their stake in the group cut to 54.5 per cent in an immediate debt-equity swap, with further dilution to 39.4 per cent if bondholders convert into equity and down to 24.5 per cent in 2006 if Eurotunnel is unable to pay its interest bills. But there is another complicating factor with the exercise of warrants in the group which would bring the shareholders stake back up to 51.3 per cent.

The most radical, L'Association pour L'Action Eurotunnel, led by Christian Cambier, has been a thorn in Eurotunnel's *side since* 1992. *It has an Internet site where shareholders can lodge proxies to vote against the refinancing* and offers a booklet entitled *Eurotunnel, le Hold Up programmé*.

The second, Adapté, is canvassing *shareholders for* a "no" vote, having looked at yesterday's figures and found no solace. "We are resolutely against the proposals which we consider grossly unfair," said Georges Berlioz, a lawyer representing Adapté. "We do not know how many will support us, but then M Chirac does not know how many will vote for his side."

The third, led by Sophie L'Héllias, of Franklin Global Investor Services, a US group, *speaks for institutions* holding about 1.6 per cent of Eurotunnel shares. Though she says she is waiting to read the small print, it is understood that Ms Héllias is unimpressed by the proposals on the table.

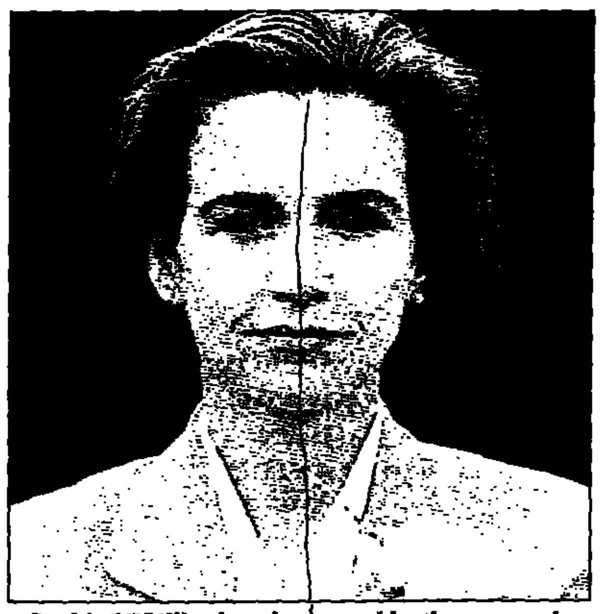
At the last annual shareholders meeting 36 per cent of those who voted opposed motions from the Eurotunnel board. If that is repeated the refinancing will be blocked. "If shareholders do not approve, *it will* be a mess," *Malpas said yesterday.*

Though in theory the banks have the right to take back the licence *under which* Eurotunnel *operates if the refinancing is not approved, it is much more complicated in practice. Pulling the plug* on Eurotunnel will place the *group in a* French *form* of administration, which is heavily biased in favour of shareholders.

In the words of one banker: "In this situation any distribution from the sale of the licence to another operator would bring a first payout to exactly the bolshie shareholders who brought the company down."

Within the banking community there is the feeling that the shareholders deserve nothing. Eurotunnel debt was trading on the secondary debt markets at 45 per cent of face value yesterday — valuing the £8.7 billion of debts at a mere £3.9 billion — and many debt traders consider this too high. "We offered some at 43 the other day and there were *no* takers," said Gary Klesch, of Klesch & Co, one of the most active in the market.

Yet the shares rose 1½p yesterday *to* 71p, *giving the* company a *market* value of £650 *million*. Could Eurotunnel be worth *more to* shareholders *dead than alive?*



Sophie L'Héllias is unimpressed by the proposals

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Caspian's Leeds Lasers

A 12-year-old boy living *in* north Leeds *bumped up* his pocket *money* by £1,000 yesterday. Daniel Kennedy came *top in* a competition run by *the Yorkshire Evening Post* to christen the new hockey team being launched by Caspian, the leisure and hotels group that owns Leeds United. The hockey team, which makes its debut on the ice this autumn, will henceforth be known as the Leeds Lasers.

Opera post

ACCOUNTANTS with an ear for opera *could* do worse than give Norman Broadbent International a call. The firm of headhunters is looking to fill the role of director of finance and resources at Glyndebourne. Mark Beddy, 36, the incumbent, is off to join the British Study Group. Eighty per cent of the job will centre on Glyndebourne Festival Opera and tours. A five-figure salary has been mentioned and free tickets will be a perk of the job.

Monumental

ROBERT MALPAS, *the* co-chairman of Eurotunnel, was *moving into the realms* of hyperbole yesterday, describing the cross-Channel rail link as "*the most* important piece of infrastructure built in the world this century". This of course puts it ahead of the Golden Gate bridge, Heathrow airport and the Panama Canal. Glad to see Mr Malpas has everything in perspective.

Tony O'Reilly is to have a theatre named after *him*

O'Reilly honour

TONY O'REILLY, *multimillionaire chief executive* at Heinz, *is to have a theatre* named after *him*. The 650-seat arts centre in Pittsburgh, an area where the food *company* features large, will *cost* $18 million to build. It is to be *funded* by a donation from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, topped up by *the* Howard Heinz Endowment. Building is expected to be complete by 1999, and the *first* play will be by *Brian* Friel, the Irish playwright.

Plain speaking

ANY City gent who thinks he can add to Ann Iverson's personal life — *think again. The troubleshooting chief executive of* Laura Ashley, who has been married and divorced four times, doesn't mince her American-twanged words when quizzed on the subject of English men. "They don't open up quite as much as I would like. I think you have to be the aggressor a little more than you do with American men. You've got to nurture them a bit."

Cayman bound

ANN NEALON'S colleagues will be green with envy when they hear about her appointment as chief executive of the Cayman Islands stock exchange. A former director of policy with the Hong Kong stock exchange, and a solicitor who has practised with Clifford Chance and Linklaters & Paines, the 38-year-old Brit and her peripatetic husband are busily packing their sun lotion.

Smile, please

TONY BLAIR, selling toothpaste? The grinning Labour leader would be best suited for a role in Colgate's pearly-white toothpaste campaign if he went into television advertising, according to a survey by *Marketing* magazine. Meanwhile, John Major would be best cast in Allied Dunbar's sinister campaign with the slogan "There May Be Trouble Ahead", according to 19 per cent of voters, while Paddy Ashdown could star in Commercial Union's "We won't make a drama out of a crisis".

WORD has it that we will know on Tuesday the name of the new chief executive of Channel 4. Insiders say that a special meeting has been scheduled to announce the successor to Michael Grade.

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Source: FT Information

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Fitzwilton set to sign supermarket deal with Safeway

FROM EILEEN McCABE
IN DUBLIN

FITZWILTON, the holding company based in Dublin that owns the Wellworth supermarkets in Northern Ireland, looks set to sign a joint venture agreement with Safeway that could lead to the creation of a new all-Ireland supermarket chain.

Talks between the two sides, which began several months ago, were given fresh impetus by Tesco's decision to jump into the Irish market with the purchase last month of ABF's food retailing outlets on both sides of the border for £630 million.

Yesterday Tony O'Reilly, the Fitzwilton chairman, said a number of options were being considered for the Wellworth chain, which has an 18 per cent market share in Northern Ireland. Significantly, in view of concern expressed by small Irish supermarket suppliers after the Tesco deal, he said that regardless of which option was chosen, "we will give pride of place to our Northern Ireland suppliers who have stood by us so firmly over the years".

It is believed that Mr O'Reilly favours a joint venture arrangement under which Safeway would pay £80 million for 50 per cent of the Wellworth chain. Part of the proceeds of such a deal could be used to finance Fitzwilton's decision to exercise its option on a further 3.6 per cent of Waterford Wedgwood at a cost of Ir£24 million. The move increases Fitzwilton's stake in the company to more than 16 per cent. Mr O'Reilly and his extended family own a further 7 per cent of the company.

Fitzwilton reported flat pre-tax profits of Ir£15.1 million for the year to December 1996. Earnings per share slipped to Ir4.01p from Ir4.25p in the previous year. Mr O'Reilly said that the results reflected the multimillion pound development programme at Wellworth to help it to meet the challenge of newcomers to the Northern Irish supermarket scene. In spite of a 6 per cent increase in sales, operating profits were down 7 per cent to just under Ir£19 million.

Fitzwilton declared a final dividend of Ir1.35p, payable on August 29, which brings the total dividend for the year to Ir2.4p, compared with Ir2.35p.

Trading scandal plunges Nomura into red

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN TOKYO

NOMURA Securities, the troubled Japanese brokerage, plunged into the red last year after a $2.94 billion charge against its ailing finance subsidiary.

Nomura said the parent company's net loss was Y271.51 billion ($2.15 billion) in the year to March 31, against profits of Y23.1 billion last time.

But the nation's biggest brokerage said yesterday it enjoyed a healthy jump in its current profit in the year to March, helped by income from bond trading and underwriting.

Current profits were Y124.19 billion, up 35.7 per cent year on year and the highest in six years. Current profit is pre-tax and includes gains and losses made on investments.

Japan's securities industry suffered a major setback last month when Nomura said two of its directors were involved in suspected illegal deals in which substantial sums of Nomura money were moved to the account of a corporate customer linked to a *sokaiya*, or business racket.

The outlook for Nomura's business remains gloomy. It has already been hit hard by the scandal, which has led many clients to refrain from trading with it.

In March alone, Nomura's current profit dropped to about half the usual monthly levels due to the scandal, which cut its brokerage commissions and its share of the underwriting market, a company executive said yesterday.

"As one might expect, the scandal has had an effect (on our profits)," said Takamichi Arata, a Nomura director. He added that it was hard to calculate the extent. He said the brokerage hoped to see a parent current profit this month and in succeeding months by the cutting of operating costs.

Nomura was cutting its monthly operating expenditures to between Y20.2 billion and Y20.3 billion per month in April, down Y2 billion from March, said Mr Arata. That would be 22 per cent below the peak of Y26 billion ($206 million) five years ago.

Nomura's share of trading volume on the Tokyo bourse fell to 9.2 per cent in March from 11.4 per cent in February, toppling it from the top spot it had held since February 1992.

Analysts said the fate of Nomura's business this financial year hinges on how hard the Ministry of Finance comes down on the brokerage after regulators complete their investigation.

Reports suggest the authorities could suspend some of Nomura's operations, including stock dealing on its own account, for about three months as a penalty for the scandal. Such a penalty would be the heaviest ever imposed on a securities firm in Japan.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

JONATHAN PALMER, chief executive of Ugland International, the shipping group, which lifted pretax profits to £3 million for the year ended December 31, compared with £1.2 million for the previous nine months. The results are the first since the group trebled its size by purchasing the Ugland family's stake in Hual, a Norwegian vehicle carrier, for £99.9 million, financed by increased borrowings and a share issue. Sales were £63.2 million, up from £28.8 million, and earnings per share were 5.96p, up from 4.76p. No final dividend will be paid, making the total dividend 3.71p (3.21p for nine months).

Betterware chief better-off by £4.6m after special dividend

BY FRASER NELSON

ANDREW COHEN, chairman of Betterware, is to pay himself a special dividend of £4.6 million after the door-to-door housewares retailer returned its strongest results for three years.

Mr Cohen, who raised £33 million from selling his stake in the company before its shares crashed three years ago, will pick up a total of £6.34 million this year through his family holding, which controls 47 per cent of the company. He said: "We have all the cash we need to expand the business. We have been looking at ways of returning value to shareholders, and a buyback was ruled out because the directors own 52 per cent of the stock."

The special dividend of 9.31p will be added to the final payout of 2.52p, lifting the total to 12.83p (5.2p), which is payable on May 29.

The success of its catalogues — which the company claims now reach one in every two adults in the United Kingdom — helped to lift pre-tax profits to £11.5 million (£9.29 million) for the year to March 1.

Although it spent £2 million building up its presence in overseas markets, there was no profits return. Mr Cohen put this down to the costs of setting up shop, but said its overseas operations should account for 10 per cent of group profit next time.

The company has joined forces with Avon, a catalogue business with worldwide retail sales of $6 billion, to make inroads into the markets in Australia, Mexico and Brazil. It said that the market in Argentina was performing ahead of expectations, with the Brazilian operation due to start by the summer.

Mr Cohen said that the overseas developments would all be co-ordinated from the United Kingdom, with catalogues from Brazil being designed in London and beamed over to other countries for printing.

He added: "Countries without a developed retail infrastructure have more need for catalogues. If the consumer can't go to the goods, the goods must come to the consumer."

Overseas sales rose by 27 per cent to £1.8 million over the year, and the number of overseas representatives rose to 5,000 against the 10,000 that now operate in the UK.

Mr Cohen said that the company has yet to penetrate urban areas in the UK. "Our weakness is still inner cities. People tend to be out of the house more, and this is a problem. We have sales people going around offices to target this, although it has not made a great deal of difference to the figures just yet," he added.

On an underlying basis, pre-tax profits rose 31 per cent to £10.8 million. Sales from UK home-selling rose by 11 per cent, as the number of long-term distributors strengthened. Overall earnings rose to 7.5p (5.9p) a share. Betterware's shares gained 10p, to a three-year high of 122p.

Tempus, page 30

BA to have Heathrow's Terminal 5 to itself

BY OLIVER AUGUST

Egan: "key step"

BRITISH AIRWAYS will be the sole occupant of Heathrow's planned fifth terminal, currently the subject of a marathon public inquiry.

BAA, the airport operator, yesterday announced that BA would vacate its present homestead at Terminal 1, should construction of the controversial fifth terminal eventually go ahead. Terminal 1 would then be occupied by SAS, Lufthansa, Air Canada, United and Thai airlines.

BA's move becomes necessary as it prepares for its own alliance with American Airlines which has yet to clear regulatory hurdles. A decision is expected this summer.

BAA expects the first phase of Terminal 5 to open in 2004. The agreement with BA is conditional on gaining planning permission, which BAA expects in 1998. But protesters have said they will try to delay building work at Heathrow for as long as possible.

Sir John Egan, BAA chief executive, said: "Our agreement that British Airways should occupy Terminal 5, subject to planning permission, is a key step in the planning of this project which is so essential for Britain's economic future."

Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, said: "It has long been our dream to offer our Heathrow customers all of our services under one roof. The terminal will provide the best environmental answer to meeting the demands for additional airport capacity."

Cowie founder attacks succession hiatus

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SIR TOM COWIE, founder of Cowie, yesterday criticised the board of the bus operator and vehicle distributor for failing to appoint a successor to Gordon Hodgson, 65, the current chief executive.

Sir Tom stopped short of backing Neil Pykett, widely considered to be a candidate for the job until his dismissal in January. But he said: "We've got a 65-year-old who is running a company with 13,000 employees, and they've sacked the one guy who could have done the job."

Mr Pykett, the former managing director of Cowie Financial Holdings, was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct, two months after handing in his notice. He decided to resign after concluding that the job of chief executive, which he had long coveted, was not likely to be vacated by Mr Hodgson even though he is near to retirement. His dispute with Mr Hodgson and Sir James McKinnon, chairman, started when they refused to announce Mr Pykett's resignation, or to allow him to sell company shares.

Mr Pykett was due to force an extraordinary meeting earlier this month to debate the affair. But at the last minute he withdrew his motion protesting against his sacking, saying that he would pursue a compensation claim through the courts instead.

Sir Tom, who is a major shareholder and who retired from the board in 1993, was speaking before yesterday's annual meeting in London. Mr Hodgson, who has said that he plans to stay on for another two years, did not attend the meeting.

Sir Tom played down the dispute but said: "It would have been better for all concerned if the whole thing had not been dragged through the public domain." He wants the board to report progress on the succession. "They've been looking for 15 months and there's been a deafening silence so far."

On current trading Sir James McKinnon said the overall performance remained strong. All core divisions were operating well and were continuing to provide a solid foundation for growth.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Adare pays £1.35m in cash for Platignum

PLATIGNUM, the manufacturer credited with the invention of the cartridge pen, the retractable ballpoint and the felt tip, was bought by Adare Printing Group yesterday for £1.35 million in cash. The pen manufacturer was sold by Mentmore Abbey, which changed its name from Platignum last year after it took over Abbey, a self-storage business.

The deal is the latest twist in the chequered history of Platignum — which was originally called Mentmore Manufacturing — and was established in 1919. It floated with £6,000 in capital in 1935. Under the chairmanship of Arthur Andrews, Platignum became the second-largest writing instrument manufacturer in the world, but when he retired in 1970 the company ran into trouble. By the late 1980s the company had come close to collapsing under the weight of several ill-fated acquisitions. Last year, Platignum reported profit after tax of £200,000 for the 13 months to April 30, on turnover of £8.25 million. Adare Printing said yesterday that it hoped to develop the brand name of Platignum, in the same way that it had with Prontaprint and Ivy, its other print and stationery brands.

BS out of the red

BS, the Bristol property and leisure company, returned to profit last year, earning £1.4 million before tax, compared with a loss of £253,000 in the previous year. The results were significantly affected by the sale in December of Eastgate Retail Park and a Bristol Stadium site to Ikea, for £19 million in cash. Turnover was £8.1 million, up from £6 million, and earnings per share were 18p, against losses of 4p. A final dividend of 5p plus a special dividend of 5p will be paid on June 27, making a total of 10p (4.5p).

Folkes rises to £6m

FOLKES, the engineering and property company, yesterday reported a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £4.75 million to £6 million, for the year ended December 31, on a turnover of £40.4 million, down from £46.1 million. Earnings per share were 14.4p, up 31 per cent from 10.98p. A final dividend of 1.2p (1p) will be paid on July 1, making the total dividend of 1.9p (2.4p, which included a special dividend of 0.788p). The group said that it expects a steady performance for next year, despite the strength of sterling.

Fortune Oil advances

FORTUNE OIL, the lubricants and fuel distribution company based in Hong Kong, achieved a 31 per cent rise in net income to £2.76 million in 1996 on turnover of £392 million (£93 million). Earnings were 0.25p a share (0.2p). The company has a joint venture contract to supply aviation fuel at 16 airports in central and southern China. It also operates 11 petrol stations. The company said that it would continue to develop its core business in China in the current year and to develop the Fortune Oil brand.

Snakeboard profit blow

SNAKEBOARD, the skateboard company that joined the Alternative Investment Market last November, has admitted it is "extemely unlikely" to meet the profit forecast it gave to the City. About 80 per cent of the boards it was relying on to produce the profits had yet to come out of the factory, and are not expected for another five months. The company had originally forecast maiden profits of £2.5 million for 1997, and £4.48 million for 1998. Its shares, placed at 3½p, held at 1½p.

Pennington, page 29

Carr's moves ahead

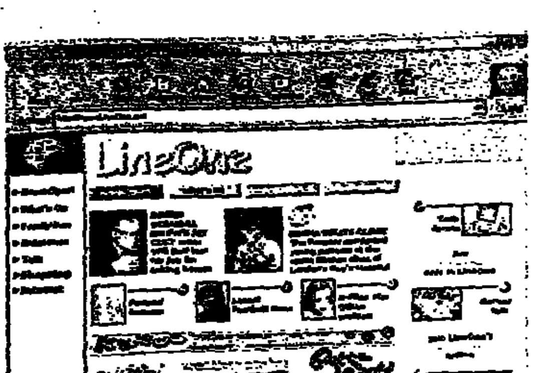
CARR'S MILLING, the Carlisle agriculture, food and engineering group, lifted pre-tax profits 11.3 per cent, from £1.53 million to £1.7 million for the six months ended March 1. Turnover was £43 million, up slightly from £42.4 million, and earnings per share were down 3.5 per cent, from 14.1p to 13.6p. An interim dividend of 3p (2.5p) will be paid on June 4. The company says that its sales of feed and fertiliser continue to be affected by the BSE problem. However, the group's bakery and engineering divisions are performing well.

Hopkinsons in black

HOPKINSONS, the Manchester engineering group that is disposing of its gas and valves businesses to focus on carborundum abrasives, achieved pre-tax profits of £500,000 in the year to January 31 (£1.7 million loss). Turnover was down, from £114,194 to £98,773, while earnings per share rose to 0.41p, against a loss of 4.19p. A final dividend of 0.8p will be paid on July 31, maintaining the total at 1.3p. The group continues to look for acquisitions for its abrasives businesses, and plans to change its name to Carbo later this year.

Approach for Omnicare

SHARES of Omnicare rose 21 per cent yesterday as the distributor of oxygen cylinders said it had received a bid approach. The company, which has capitalised on the increase of patients being treated at home through shortage of hospital beds, is rumoured to be in talks with a US-listed healthcare company. Shares in the company, which joined the Alternative Investment Market at 60p about 18 months ago, have been steadily climbing since February. They rose 35p to 163½p, valuing the company at £19.3 million.



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For AIB see Govett (John)

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	739.00	786.20	+ 0.60	2.24
General Inc	612.30	651.40	+ 0.60	2.24
UK Growth Acc	512.10	544.80	- 0.30	2.40
UK Growth Inc	327.40	348.40	- 0.10	2.40
Higher Inc Acc	910.10	968.20	- 0.40	3.93
Higher Inc Inc	477.40	507.90	- 0.20	3.93
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	214.90	227.00	- 0.30	5.58
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	91.76	96.92	- 0.15	5.58
Nth America	346.20	368.30	+ 8.00	...
Europe	397.50	422.90	+ 3.50	0.29
Brit Excell	100.80	107.30	- 0.10	2.50
Brit Fedntls Acc	127.30	135.50	- 0.10	4.50
Brit Fedntls Inc	83.98	89.35	- 0.11	4.50
Global Opps	104.10	110.80	+ 0.80	0.11
Balanced Acc	67.01	71.29	+ 0.13	2.26
Balanced Inc	61.99	65.95	+ 0.12	2.26
Japan Acc	38.59	41.05	+ 0.44	.
Pac Basin Acc	382.00	406.40	+ 2.70	0.98

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.30	140.40†		6.63
High Inc Equity	196.40	210.10†	+ 0.50	4.62
Worldwide Bond	264.40	280.30	+ 2.00	4.39
American Growth	419.70	448.60	+ 8.10	0.37
Asian Pacific	321.70	344.10	+ 3.50	0.40
Assets & Earnings	321.90	344.30		2.74
Euro Capital Acc	204.20	218.40	+ 1.80	0.93
Extra Inc	43.12	45.87†	+ 0.04	7.58
General	291.10	309.70	+ 0.30	2.97
Global Opps	74.22	78.96	+ 0.69	0.51
Japan	89.88	96.13	+ 0.85	.
Managed Inc	49.37	52.52†	+ 0.13	4.28
Mastertrust	175.90	188.10	+ 1.00	1.38
US Emerging Cos	168.90	180.60	+ 3.60	.
Ethical	87.52	93.11	- 0.06	1.70
International	138.10	146.90	+ 1.30	0.59
Dividend & Growth	73.34	78.02	+ 0.17	4.31
Global Gwth & Sec	75.48	80.52	+ 0.04	2.51
Latin America	82.39	87.53	+ 1.59	0.45
Capital Reserve	148.50	148.50		4.71

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
N&P UK Growth	98.61	104.90	- 0.09	2.27
Equity Income	138.40	147.20	- 0.30	4.07
Extra Income	268.70	285.80		6.31
Smaller Cos	113.20	120.40†	- 0.10	1.48
International	118.00	125.50†	+ 0.40	1.39

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2537.00	2636.00	- 11.00	.

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Inc & Growth	63.67	66.04†	+ 0.92	
Emerging Mkts	78.04	81.28	+ 1.03	0.04
European	165.00	171.50	+ 1.70	
Extra Income #	51.78	54.50†	+ 0.03	5.97
Far East Emg Eco	127.50	133.80	+ 0.70	0.47
Fixed Interest #	26.80	27.87	+ 0.02	8.72
Fund Inv Tst #	162.90	171.00†	+ 0.10	9.71
Japan	159.50	165.80	+ 2.30	
Latin American	70.21	73.07	+ 1.14	0.67
Pacific	80.48	84.49†	+ 0.53	0.31
Property Share	82.00	86.09	+ 0.16	2.04
UK Emerging Cos	72.83	78.71	+ 0.07	1.22
UK Growth	59.78	62.26†	+ 0.02	1.88
Aber World Port #	86.41	88.40	+ 0.25	2.81
Ethical	82.61	85.91	- 0.42	2.06
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.21	50.35†	+ 0.01	7.37

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resid Property #	99.93	106.30		5.34

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amity Income	98.37	104.37†	+ 0.24	1.94
Income Builder Inc	87.05	92.61	+ 0.14	3.78

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg. 01793 514 514

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	310.00	331.30†	+ 0.30	2.81
Capital	558.20	598.70†	- 0.10	1.05
Balanced	908.20	970.80	+ 0.90	2.51
Accumulator	1753.00	1873.00†	+ 1.00	1.67
Income Trusts				
American Income	68.62	73.290	- 0.41	2.21
High Income	498.80	532.80†	+ 0.20	4.01
Equity Income	282.10	301.50	+ 0.30	3.68
High Yield	309.90	330.50†	+ 0.10	3.75
Govt Securities	34.20	36.100†	+ 0.01	6.65
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	228.80	244.10†	+ 0.90	0.05
European Growth	60.74	64.820	- 0.03	0.06
International	193.60	206.70†	- 0.40	0.11
Japan	158.90	169.80	- 0.20	.
Pacific	383.40	409.80	- 1.60	
Secs of America	607.00	646.10	+ 4.10	0.12
Wwide Asset Val	56.40	60.290	- 0.21	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	701.90	750.30	+ 0.90	1.82
Conv & Gilt	53.34	57.020	+ 0.08	3.72
Smaller Cos	214.50	229.30	- 0.40	1.00
2nd Smaller Cos	203.30	217.30†	- 0.30	0.71
Recovery	180.80	193.20†	- 0.20	1.46
Met Min & Cdty	153.00	163.50†		0.19
Oseas Earnings	466.70	498.80†	- 0.40	0.97
Technology	215.80	230.60†	+ 3.60	
UK Special Sits	629.90	673.30	+ 1.70	1.59

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 526 911

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cncrdd Gwl Pens	124.60	129.40		.
Foundtn Persl Pens	73.03	75.87		

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0033

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital	92.24	98.13	- 0.88	0.76
International	69.58	74.03		.

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
America	353.50	378.20	+ 3.90	
Bond	117.70	123.90†	+ 0.10	6.61
Brit Smlr Cos	119.40	127.00	- 0.10	1.77
Conv & Gen #	70.31	74.80	- 0.01	5.17
Europe	310.00	329.10	+ 1.60	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	126.30	134.60	- 0.30	0.31
Income Gwth	394.60	419.80†	- 1.20	4.48
Japan	276.40	293.90	+ 3.70	
Latin American	103.30	109.90	+ 1.50	0.58
Pacific	116.10	123.50	+ 1.50	0.52
UK Smllr Cos	61.00	64.89	+ 0.06	1.23
Japan Fd	522.10	537.70	+ 6.80	.
Mngd Fd	214.20	227.50†	- 0.10	2.65

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Brit & Oseas	402.60	425.90	+ 3.60	0.83
Capital Gwth	142.00	150.20	+ 1.40	2.78
Wwide Opps	235.50	249.10	+ 2.50	0.87

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 522 4000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	464.40	494.00†	+ 2.20	2.08
European Bd Inc	98.51	102.00	+ 0.20	5.72
Exempt	91.07	96.88†	+ 0.32	2.54
500	525.60	565.20	+ 1.00	2.03
General	355.60	378.20†	+ 1.40	2.15
Property	258.80	277.70		5.43
Trustee	250.60	266.60	+ 0.70	2.11
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.30	100.30†		5.41
Distribution @ #	118.90	119.50†	+ 0.20	5.84
Extra Income #	149.60	159.60†	+ 0.40	4.46
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.32	61.15	+ 0.03	7.70
Income #	644.30	687.10	+ 1.50	4.41
Income Builder #	73.88	78.68	+ 0.13	5.05
Intl Income	75.86	80.71	+ 0.54	1.81
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	156.50	166.50	+ 0.70	1.93
FTSE 100	113.00	120.00	+ 0.50	2.37
Leisure	184.00	196.30	+ 0.30	1.58
Recovery	544.60	581.00	+ 2.90	2.18
Smllr Cos Inc	62.25	66.40	+ 0.09	2.07
Special Sits	448.10	476.70	+ 1.90	1.87
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	189.90	201.00	+ 1.90	0.27
F East Gwth Acc	298.00	317.00	+ 3.50	0.27
Far East Gwth	176.70	188.00	+ 2.00	0.27
Euro Gwth Inc	204.80	216.50	+ 1.60	0.64
-do- Accum	222.50	235.40	+ 1.70	0.64
Japan	113.60	120.20†	+ 1.00	
-do- Accum	114.90	121.60	+ 1.00	
Japan Spec Sits	53.87	57.07	+ 0.38	
Worldwide	203.30	215.70	+ 1.70	0.67

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	143.40	151.50	+ 1.20	
Amer Smllr Cos	129.80	139.00	+ 2.70	
Convertibles	61.98	66.05†	+ 0.30	4.40
Eastern	279.70	300.70	+ 1.80	0.30
Equity Income #	107.80	115.30†	+ 0.10	4.10
European Growth	398.20	424.20	+ 2.30	0.80
Europe	401.60	427.60	+ 0.50	0.80
German Growth	94.38	99.93	+ 0.47	0.50
Global Bond	70.65	74.54	+ 0.37	6.20
Global Growth	147.60	156.80	+ 0.90	0.40
Japan Growth	162.60	172.80	+ 1.50	
Japan Smllr Co	108.30	114.90	+ 1.30	
Korea Trust	49.10	53.27	+ 0.47	
Portfolio	155.50	165.80	+ 0.20	2.00
-do- Accum	296.50	316.20	+ 0.40	2.00
UK Growth	117.70	126.40	- 0.10	3.00
UK Smaller Cos	105.60	114.60†	+ 0.80	1.90
Select Managers	91.95	98.68†	+ 0.38	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Gwth Port Inc	93.14	99.08		
Special Oppor Inc	67.13	71.41		.

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	159.45	168.73†	+ 0.78	1.45
-do- Accum	186.70	197.57	+ 0.92	1.45
Smaller Cos	176.13	186.38	+ 0.40	0.40
Higher Yield #	61.57	65.16†	+ 0.30	3.89
American Gth Inc	104.13	110.19	+ 0.55	
European Growth	180.22	190.71†	+ 2.67	
-do- Accum	184.08	194.79	+ 2.73	
Mngd Pfolio Inc	56.75	60.03†	+ 0.50	1.27
-do- Accum	59.19	62.61	+ 0.52	1.27
Intl Spec Opps	178.20	188.57	+ 3.08	
Pacific Gth	159.30	168.57	+ 2.36	
UK General #	107.57	113.83	+ 0.47	2.90
-do- Accum #	116.73	123.52	+ 0.51	2.90
Japan	47.21	49.96	+ 0.29	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.48	105.18	+ 0.10	8.17

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Short Dated Gilt	64.20	65.02†	- 0.01	6.62

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Environ	197.10	207.80	+ 0.20	1.86
UK Growth	232.00	243.60	+ 0.70	2.10
UK Income	159.50	167.50†	+ 0.40	4.17

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Can Gen Dist	247.60	262.40	+ 0.60	1.51
-do- Income Dist	135.00	143.10†	+ 0.10	3.49
-do- Accum	450.10	477.00†	+ 0.30	3.49
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.92	43.00	- 0.02	6.37
Growth Units	279.30	298.90	- 0.10	1.96
Bond	178.90	186.10	+ 0.10	6.80
Intl Growth	235.70	251.20†	+ 2.30	0.18
North American	271.70	288.70	+ 2.20	0.00
Far East	303.70	324.80	+ 0.90	0.60
UK Smaller Cos	249.50	266.80	+ 0.10	1.07
European	101.70	108.00	- 0.60	0.47
Japanese Growth	36.86	39.06†	+ 0.46	
High Income	237.90	254.30†	+ 0.30	4.00

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7465

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American & Gen	224.30	237.70†	+ 1.90	
European Inc	105.20	111.50	+ 1.10	0.37
Smaller Cos (4-1)	116.40	123.90†	- 0.10	1.33
Growth	603.90	642.50	+ 3.10	1.95
Income & Growth #	507.30	539.70	+ 2.30	3.52
-do- Accum #	777.70	827.40	+ 3.50	3.52
Japan & Gen	54.28	57.60†	+ 0.77	
Hallmark Gwth	£12.97	£13.52†	+ 5.00	1.73
-do- Accum	£16.15	£16.83	+ 6.00	1.73
Special Sits	139.30	148.10	- 0.10	1.95
High Yield	£16.31	£16.82	- 9.00	3.90

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	107.47	114.73	+ 0.07	2.15
American Portfolio	130.72	138.74	+ 0.32	1.04
European Portfolio	148.48	158.11†	- 0.01	0.58
High Income	52.79	52.93	+ 0.05	7.18
Japanese Portfolio	54.58	57.88†	+ 0.44	
Pacific Portfolio	157.30	168.15	+ 0.85	0.79
UK Equity	104.26	111.33†	+ 0.06	3.22
UK Equity & Bd	61.60	65.28	+ 0.01	6.19
UK Smlr Cos	54.65	58.45	- 0.01	1.61

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fd Inc	819.86	832.26	+ 11.71	4.13
Inv Fd Acc	819.86	832.28	+ 11.71	..
Fxd Int Sec Inc	156.66	157.28	+ 0.93	9.09
Fxd Int Sec Acc	156.66	157.28	+ 0.93	...

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	814.88	827.20	+ 13.16	4.18
Investment Acc	938.42	939.80	+ 62.25	
Fixed Int Inc	126.75	127.25	- 0.02	9.11
Fixed Int Acc	241.11	242.07	- 0.04	...

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	84.75	89.30	...	5.87
Beck Gtly-Tech	38.87	40.18	- 0.86	.
Acorn Ethical Tst	186.95	198.31		0.44
City Fin Assets	80.72	84.78†		1.82
City Fin Intl	88.65	93.09†	..	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	321.59	342.12		2.32
Buckley Wrld Gth	140.26	148.67†		
J Stil Inc/Gth Inc	60.05	63.06	+ 0.38	3.29
Shaw Utilities	66.62	68.22	- 0.03	6.49

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	60.49	64.18	+ 0.53	.

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	79.82	84.92	+ 0.62	0.07
Dragon Growth	70.63	75.54	+ 0.67	0.41
Equity High Inc	99.43	105.21	- 0.08	3.71
-do- Accum	145.76	154.24	- 0.11	3.71
Extra Income Inc	26.75	28.15†	+ 0.01	7.16
Extra Income Acc	30.29	31.87	+ 0.01	7.16
European Gwth	69.08	73.08	+ 0.54	0.38
Evergreen	31.05	33.20	+ 0.30	..
General Equity	117.24	123.74		2.56
Japan Growth	38.16	40.60	+ 0.40	..
Pedigree Gwth	69.63	73.68	- 0.14	2.05
Ped Smr Cos Inc	41.76	44.19	- 0.03	1.17
-do- Accum	44.52	47.11	- 0.03	1.17
Retirement Inc #	30.40	32.34		5.50
Special Sits	50.95	54.79	+ 0.04	2.59
UK & Overseas	63.52	67.22	+ 0.51	0.67

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	74.89	78.11	- 0.11	3.95
Capital	90.26	94.02	+ 0.04	2.34
High Income	53.02	55.22	+ 0.02	6.70
Top 50	62.40	65.00	- 0.04	2.48

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	206.16	214.77†	+ 0.68	4.28
Long Gilt	43.90	45.71†	- 0.05	6.20
Monthly Inc Plus	51.64	53.80†	+ 0.07	6.33
Preference Share	48.70	50.73†	+ 0.06	7.68
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	149.71	155.96†	+ 0.20	5.47
Managed Fund	79.30	82.81†	+ 0.30	2.88
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	55.39	57.70†	+ 0.02	1.65
-do- Accum	66.24	69.01†	+ 0.02	1.65
UK & General	106.04	110.47†	+ 0.15	2.73
-do- Accum	140.57	146.44†	+ 0.17	2.73
UK Growth	214.31	223.26†	+ 0.64	1.26
International Growth Funds				
Europa Growth	231.09	240.74†	+ 1.80	0.80
Far Eastern Grth	126.96	132.26†	+ 1.24	0.02
Global Bond	73.05	76.10†	+ 0.54	6.51
Japan Growth	94.31	98.25†	+ 0.84	
North Amer Gth	253.62	264.22†	+ 2.16	
Oriental Growth	83.42	86.90†	+ 1.00	0.27
Worldwide Growth	74.69	77.81†	+ 0.43	..
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.70	91.70†	+ 0.01	5.54
Homemaker Fund	94.42	100.46	+ 0.17	2.15
Outlaw Fund	165.11	175.67	+ 0.17	2.05

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Consistent UT	37.66	40.28	+ 0.47	3.92

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth	195.40	207.90†	- 0.90	1.78
Income	76.09	80.95	- 0.15	4.36
European	80.75	85.90	+ 0.44	0.29
Recovery	187.50	199.50†	- 0.50	2.58

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Dist	1049.30	1065.30	.	3.25

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fellowship Tst	117.20	124.60†	- 0.30	1.09
Income #	300.50	319.60†	- 0.10	4.32
-do- Accum #	817.40	869.50	- 0.40	4.32
Smaller Cos	242.60	258.00	- 0.10	0.93
-do- Accum	302.30	321.50	- 0.10	0.93
Gth Portfolio	107.40	114.20	- 0.10	1.25
High Inc Port #	88.57	94.22	- 0.08	4.43

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1694

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Global Sm Cos	1636.10	1668.80	+ 13.40	
UK Small Cos	2324.90	2420.90	+ 4.00	2.73

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8819

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Disc Inc	243.60	251.20	...	3.14

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Balanced Inc	188.50	200.50	+ 0.40	1.81
UK High Inc Inc	196.50	209.00	+ 0.50	3.41
-do- Accum	269.40	286.50	+ 0.70	3.41
UK Pref & F I Inc	60.12	63.83	+ 0.05	5.80
Emerging Opps	111.30	118.40†	+ 0.90	0.84
UK Smlr Cos #	76.97	81.88	- 0.04	0.82
Extra Income Inc	50.39	53.60	+ 0.02	6.66

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 526

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Convertibles #	23.41	24.87†	+ 0.06	5.63
Enterprise	115.10	122.00	+ 0.20	2.05
Equity Income #	151.00	160.40†	.	3.74
European	68.57	72.52	+ 0.67	
Financial	62.47	66.37	+ 0.40	1.51
Growth & Inc #	305.80	326.00		2.88
High Dist #	191.30	203.30	+ 0.30	4.18
International	437.10	464.40	+ 1.30	0.22
Int Cap Inc	111.00	118.50†	+ 1.00	2.28
Latin American	36.45	38.73	+ 0.45	
Pacific	82.08	87.21	+ 0.31	.
Pref High Inc	22.89	24.26†	- 0.03	7.42
Tokyo	177.70	188.20	+ 0.70	.
UK Smaller Cos	262.60	279.00	+ 0.30	1.08
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
Jap Smllr Co	297.00	315.30†	+ 1.60	...
Nth Amer	448.80	475.90	+ 5.50	0.81
UK Inc & Gth	270.50	288.80†	+ 0.30	2.57

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
BH Director Dlgs	129.88	138.91†	+ 2.97	1.03
Growth Acc	284.03	302.66	- 0.98	0.53
Income	618.81	659.03	- 0.61	6.03

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Endurance Fd	233.70	248.60†	+ 1.90	0.69

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 480

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European	98.56	103.75	+ 0.16	1.57
Ethical Tst	46.97	49.44	+ 0.19	1.01
Far Eastern	295.75	311.32	- 1.00	1.49
High Income	154.47	162.60	- 0.07	4.51
UK Index Trcking	57.03	60.03	+ 0.09	3.00
Intl Growth	146.52	154.23†	- 0.44	0.77
North American	155.74	163.94	- 0.06	1.83
Pelican	156.00	164.21†	+ 0.20	2.94
Smaller Cos	77.60	81.68	- 0.20	2.57
Special Sits	98.41	103.59	- 0.18	2.62
1st of Inv Tsts	225.83	237.78	+ 0.40	1.43

For Evermore see Laurence Keen

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital Growth	104.67	112.25†	+ 0.30	
Fd of Inv Tsts	55.23	58.91	+ 0.04	0.49
High Income #	40.52	43.42†		11.52
Warrant	47.04	51.13†	+ 0.04	
Zero Preference	45.77	48.56	+ 0.01	

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Family Asset Tst	104.70	111.30†	+ 0.20	2.39
United Charities	342.70	364.50†	- 0.10	1.97

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.60
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.25	27.21†	+ 0.18	5.37
Strategic Inc	27.58	28.84†	.	5.89
Income Funds				
High Income	27.94	29.34†	+ 0.03	5.25
Income Plus	143.50	152.60	+ 0.10	3.93
European Income	54.46	57.85	+ 0.27	2.35
UK Div Gth	34.54	36.73		2.28
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	56.63	60.41	- 0.12	.
American	341.20	362.90	+ 6.70	
Amer Spec Sits	185.70	198.40	+ 4.70	
Japan Smaller Cos	23.19	24.69	+ 0.25	
Europa	255.60	271.80	+ 1.60	0.90
European Opps	91.44	97.25†	+ 0.66	0.02
Global Priv	35.32	37.56†	+ 0.25	0.30
UK Growth	133.80	142.30	+ 0.10	1.37
Growth & Inc	197.50	210.00	+ 0.10	2.21
Intl PEP	51.95	55.24	+ 0.20	0.99
Japan Spec Sits	66.25	70.29	+ 0.96	
Japan	155.70	165.10	+ 1.50	.
Managed Intl	372.60	395.90	+ 2.60	0.68
Moneybuilder	68.04	72.35	+ 0.46	
Recovery	67.63	71.91†	+ 0.09	1.90
South E Asia	185.50	197.80	+ 1.10	0.97
Special Sits	799.10	849.70	- 2.50	0.52
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	118.82	118.82	+ 0.02	5.60

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 834 2700

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced #	155.40	157.70†		1.66
Finsbury Pf Inc #	102.10	103.00	+ 0.20	6.03
Cap Pfolio	171.60	173.00	+ 1.00	0.45
General Opps	151.00	152.40†		3.27
Growth Inc	40.41	40.84	+ 0.08	1.89
Private Portfolio	501.10	508.40		1.18

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Val 01277 690 350

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smllr Cos	158.30	168.20	+ 2.00	0.08
High Income	22.97	24.40†	+ 0.07	9.22
Japan Smlr Cos	14.61	15.65	+ 0.17	
US Smaller Cos	429.50	457.10	+ 4.30	

For Foster & Braithwaite see Dellar

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	77.88	82.99†	+ 1.18	.
-do- Accum	77.88	82.99†	+ 1.18	
Amer Smllr Cos	580.80	621.20	+ 8.40	..
-do- Accum	593.40	634.70	+ 8.70	.
Capital Tst	422.00	448.90†	+ 0.40	1.26
-do- Accum	623.30	663.10†	+ 0.60	1.26
Contl Smllr Cos	62.45	66.83	+ 0.38	0.97
-do- Accum	66.44	71.10	+ 0.41	0.97
Convertible	146.90	156.30	+ 1.80	5.17
-do- Accum	325.70	346.50	+ 4.20	5.17
Emerging Markets	70.39	75.19	+ 1.20	0.54
-do- Accum	70.94	75.79	+ 1.21	0.54
European	162.40	172.00	+ 0.90	0.50
-do- Accum	172.00	182.30	+ 1.00	0.50
Extra Income	421.50	450.50	+ 3.20	4.02
-do- Accum	682.80	736.40	+ 5.10	4.02
Financial	191.80	204.08†	+ 1.40	0.46
-do- Accum	205.30	218.40†	+ 1.40	0.46
Gilt Trust	62.70	64.65†	- 0.01	6.65
-do- Accum	100.50	103.60†		6.65
Health Fund Inc	236.60	253.00	+ 2.80	..
-do- Accum	238.80	253.00	+ 2.80	
Income & Growth	248.10	261.80	- 0.10	4.08
-do- Accum	397.60	423.00	- 0.10	4.08
Intl Growth	418.30	446.70†	+ 5.00	
-do- Accum	464.60	495.40†	+ 5.50	.
Japan & Gen	136.50	145.40	+ 1.30	
-do- Accum	138.20	146.80	+ 1.20	
Monthly Inc #	213.50	227.10†	+ 0.10	4.26
-do- Accum #	217.90	231.80†	+ 0.10	4.26
Managed Port Inc	122.50	128.90†	+ 0.50	1.39
-do- Accum	134.70	141.80†	+ 0.60	1.39
Quarterly Income #	59.76	63.60	- 0.03	5.07
-do- Accum #	69.87	74.63	- 0.03	5.07
Recovery	328.40	351.20	+ 2.80	...
-do- Accum	387.60	414.57	+ 3.20	
UK Growth	72.54	77.17	+ 0.06	2
-do- Accum	78.66	83.68	+ 0.07	2

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01722 715836 Enq 01722 715834

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FP American	66.25	70.51	+ 0.40	0.11
FP Am Smllr Cos	182.90	195.60	+ 1.60	
FP Asian Growth	287.80	306.90	+ 2.40	
FP Australian	448.20	478.00	+ 4.00	
FP Equity Dist	469.40	502.60	+ 1.10	2.26
-do- Accum	£11.14	£11.88	+ 2.00	2.26
FP Euro Gth	322.70	344.20	+ 2.50	
-do- Accum	354.00	377.60	+ 2.80	
FP Intl Bond	55.34	58.56	+ 0.37	4.15
FP Intl Gth Dist	39.41	42.03	+ 0.26	0.03
-do- Accum	57.88	61.73	+ 0.39	0.03
FP Pac Basin Acc	213.50	227.70	+ 3.00	
FP Income #	64.00	68.26	- 0.02	4.78
-do- Accum #	227.50	242.60	- 0.10	4.78
FP Jap Smllr Cos	215.30	229.60	+ 2.80	
FP Monthly Dist #	79.62	84.92†	.	5.29
FP Stlg Deposit	100.20	100.20†		5.01
FP Tokyo	66.26	70.67	+ 0.72	.
FP UK Focus	46.10	49.17†	+ 0.17	1.60
FP UK Growth	218.40	232.90	+ 0.70	2.03
-do- Accum	444.30	473.90	+ 1.50	2.03
Stewardship Dist	472.40	503.80	+ 0.30	1.27
-do- Accum	597.00	636.70	+ 0.30	1.27
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	81.78	87.23	+ 0.30	4.83
-do- Accum #	114.40	122.07	+ 0.30	4.83
N Am Stshp Dist	130.70	139.40	+ 1.90	0.26
-do- Accum	140.70	150.00	+ 2.00	0.26
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical Inc #	115.30	115.80	+ 0.10	3.20
Inst Ethical Ac #	115.30	115.80	+ 0.10	3.20
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	132.20	140.60	+ 1.20	0.85
Open Cap Gth Acc	135.20	143.80	+ 1.30	..
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	122.00	129.70	+ 0.80	3.09
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	130.70	139.00	+ 0.90	3.09
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	126.70	134.70	+ 0.70	3.61
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	137.20	145.90	+ 0.86	3.61

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0345 581 106/7

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
GANDA				
Cash	49.71	50.45		4.45
Growth Portfolio	94.52	100.60	+ 0.50	.
Income Portfolio	76.96	81.66	+ 0.37	2.80

GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD
0171 236 6441

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	240.20	256.60	+ 1.90	0.35
Dividend	105.10	112.40	+ 0.20	3.68
Intl Gth & Inc	252.30	269.50	+ 0.40	2.29
UK & Gen	54.65	58.45	+ 0.01	1.42
Fund of Funds	77.75	83.16†	+ 0.55	.

GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 8481

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Smlr Cos	186.60	199.66	+ 6.00	0.17
European Gth	799.80	850.40	+ 8.70	0.56
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	58.11	58.47†	+ 0.36	4.01
-do- Accum	64.43	68.29	+ 0.41	4.01
Far East & Gen	253.30	270.90	+ 2.30	..
High Yield #	50.79	53.67	+ 0.08	7.47
-do- Accum #	57.80	61.08	+ 0.06	7.47
Income Inc	209.60	224.30	+ 0.90	3.85
-do- Accum	243.40	260.40	+ 1.00	3.85
Intl Growth	394.40	419.30	+ 3.20	0.29
Intl Income	100.00	105.90	+ 0.60	2.58
Japan Growth	414.40	439.60	+ 4.40	.
Orient Acc	203.30	217.20	+ 1.20	0.14
UK General Inc	198.70	212.30	+ 0.50	1.65
UK General Acc	356.70	381.30	+ 1.10	1.65
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	65.11	69.64	+ 0.18	1.67
UK Spec Sits	112.10	119.90	+ 0.20	1.37
US Growth	195.50	206.80	+ 4.40	
Wwide Spec Sits	164.60	175.20	+ 0.80	.

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	83.09	88.24	- 0.05	2.07
Cash Trust	149.76	149.76†	+ 0.01	5.46
Practical Inv Inc #	128.05	136.95†	+ 0.29	3.51
-do- Accum #	311.22	332.88†	+ 0.71	3.51
UK Index	186.87	197.86†	+ 0.01	3.15
UK Smaller Cos	232.21	248.35	- 0.36	0.36
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.79	25.69†	+ 0.02	7.20
High Income	37.23	39.71	- 0.04	4.58
UK Growth & Inc	173.95	186.07	+ 0.30	3.05
Global Bond	27.65	28.66†	+ 0.19	4.75
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	50.95	54.49†	+ 0.56	
Global Managed	146.05	155.19†	+ 1.16	1.26
Gold & Intl Res	105.28	112.60	+ 0.64	.
Global Utilities	158.74	169.32	+ 0.81	0.89
Overseas Funds				
American	201.27	213.34	+ 2.27	0.63
European	150.80	159.87†	+ 0.99	0.64
Euro Sel Opps	232.98	247.32	+ 1.45	...
Amer Emerging	152.05	162.43	+ 1.19	..
Hong Kong	185.76	198.59†	+ 2.05	1.08
Japan	182.58	193.76	+ 1.92	.
Pacific Growth	221.30	237.70	+ 1.59	..
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	275.64	275.64†	+ 8.40	1.83
Long Term Bal	293.06	295.85†	+ 0.73	2.86
Med Term Bal	240.03	240.03†	+ 0.28	2.87
UK Equity	331.85	331.85	+ 0.21	2.42
UK Emerging Cos	192.91	192.91	+ 0.18	1.94
American	352.08	352.08†	+ 3.74	0.51
Japan	106.90	106.90†	+ 0.71	.
European	389.48	389.48†	+ 2.68	0.77
Index Linked Gilt	190.64	190.64†	- 0.05	2.69
Fixed Interest	182.87	182.87	- 0.09	7.21
Amer Emerging	337.88	337.88†	+ 2.89	..
Pacific	223.35	223.35	+ 0.59	0.65
Emerging Mkts	135.43	135.43	+ 1.70	0.61
Index Strat Japan	114.24	114.24	+ 1.33	0.79
-do- Pacific Rim	201.29	201.29	+ 0.80	1.20
-do- Cont Europe	206.31	206.31	+ 1.47	1.34
Index Strat USA	208.53	208.53	+ 1.79	1.45
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	130.17	138.48	+ 0.20	
Med Term Bal	114.84	122.17	+ 0.14	
Long Term Bal	132.28	140.72	+ 0.35	
UK Equity	154.65	164.52	+ 0.11	
UK Emerging Cos	90.89	96.69	+ 0.62	
American	163.30	173.72	+ 2.89	
Japan	51.12	54.37	+ 0.36	
European	161.98	172.32	+ 2.39	
Fixed Interest	94.43	100.45	- 0.05	
Index Linked Gilt	84.96	90.37	- 0.03	
Deposit	90.18	95.93		
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	161.03	169.50†	+ 0.83	0.50
Brcalll Gth Pod Inc	75.75	79.95	+ 0.58	0.60
-do- Inc Port Inc	67.34	71.07†	+ 0.37	4.25
-do- Wwide Port	58.61	61.68	+ 0.48	0.10

GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Stlg & Intl Inc	692.51	736.71	- 0.90	0.60
-do- Accum	786.07	836.24	- 1.02	0.60
European Inc	189.97	201.73	+ 0.61	1.08
Amalgam Inc	164.82	175.34		
N America Inc	409.51	435.65	+ 5.98	
Far East Inc	357.93	380.78	+ 2.25	0.17
-do- Accum	371.50	395.21	+ 2.33	0.17
UK Dvdd Inc	224.94	239.30	- 5.51	1.71

GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	127.440	135.800	+ 0.11	
Do NAV to Jun 20	123.59	123.59		
UK Equity Safeguard	100.69	107.68	+ 0.10	
Do NAV to Jun 20	96.69	96.69		
Cash	9.5879	9.6258		5.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	312.20	330.90	+ 0.80	2.27
British Growth	75.28	80.61	+ 0.30	2.58
UK Small Cos	76.43	81.74†	+ 1.00	0.62
FTSE 250 Index	94.62	101.08		2.12
Geared UK Index	18.0796	19.0853†	+ 0.11	4.75
Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc #	100.69	107.68†		4.09
Corp Bd	77.94	80.51	+ 0.02	
Monthly Inc	40.62	43.52†		8.80
International Funds				
American Gen	245.20	260.50	+ 1.50	
American Strat	205.90	220.20	+ 2.50	
JG US Index	19.6153	20.6673	- 0.11	4.00
European Gen	294.50	311.50	+ 2.00	
European Strat	130.64	137.71	+ 1.20	
Japan Gen	129.60	137.10	+ 1.20	
Japan Strat	44.79	48.02	+ 0.50	
Asia Pacific	98.67	105.62	+ 0.69	
Pacific Strat	160.88	172.05†	+ 1.90	
Greater China	245.00	262.02	+ 6.30	
Latin America	112.87	120.70	+ 2.40	
Int Growth	166.36	177.92	+ 1.00	
Balanced Exempt	140.40	145.50		

GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD
0171 538 9568

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European	634.80	678.10	+ 7.00	0.16
Gilt & Fixed	131.00	138.90		5.62
Growth Equity	498.00	532.40	+ 1.50	1.21
Income Trust	166.60	177.90	+ 0.70	3.88
International	311.30	335.70†	+ 1.80	0.09
Japan Trust	103.50	110.50	+ 1.20	
Nth American	365.90	390.90†	+ 3.50	
Pacific	563.10	601.50†	+ 4.40	0.09
Gardhill	706.40	754.70	+ 2.10	1.29

GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD
0171 522 2129

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
EMU Trust	98.88	103.63	+ 0.57	5.04
Global High Inc	95.13	98.76	+ 0.66	5.93
Corporate Bond	104.57	108.55	+ 0.02	7.53
Eqty & Bond Inc	117.40	124.83†	- 0.17	4.90
European Growth	140.55	149.44	+ 1.48	
Intl PEP Trust	74.66	79.38	+ 0.31	
Equity Inc	148.76	158.16	- 1.57	3.47
-do- Accum	221.08	235.73	- 2.33	3.47
Recovery	446.50	474.68†	- 0.10	2.29
-do- Accum	539.50	576.80	- 0.10	2.29
St Vinc High Inc	134.72	136.74†	- 3.54	7.15
UK Emerg Cos	336.60	358.00	- 0.30	2.57
UK Smlr Cos	453.30	486.00	+ 0.70	2.87
Glob Priv Tst	136.58	145.27	+ 0.90	1.06
-do- Accum	142.00	150.98	+ 0.93	1.06
Inc Share Tst	95.64	101.90	- 0.03	8.63
Small Cos	107.94	114.75	+ 0.16	2.17

HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD
Dealing: 0171 220 5850

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Inc	58.58	62.03	- 0.12	3.29
Balanced Acc	62.92	66.77	- 0.13	3.29
Growth	36.19	38.37	- 0.10	1.90
Growth Acc	37.69	39.96	- 0.10	1.90
Income	34.71	36.80†	- 0.09	4.37
Income Acc	37.66	39.92	- 0.10	4.37
Dealing: 01904 611410				
Accumulator Tst	29.87	31.33	- 0.08	3.06

HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Provider	100.60	104.00†	- 0.10	6.51
Model Pfolio	262.53	276.10	- 0.50	2.09

HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Perf Acc	47.62	50.53		1.39

HENDERSON INVESTORS
Enquiries: 0645 494949 Dealing: 0645 464648

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Funds:				
UK Enterprise	380.90	402.55	- 0.38	0.73
Best of British	80.13	85.16	+ 0.07	2.15
UK Smaller Cos	163.70	176.20	+ 0.21	0.75
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	336.92	358.80	- 0.24	3.37
-do- Accum #	963.24	1025.25	+ 0.69	3.37
High Income	365.08	390.26†	- 0.34	4.05
Extra Income #	313.69	330.60†	- 0.34	5.74
Pref & Bond	49.95	51.60†	- 0.01	8.10
International				
Ethical	127.71	136.58	- 0.32	1.65
International	329.32	349.66†	- 0.38	
Global Bond	53.45	56.23†	+ 0.32	5.27
Mgd Port Tst	103.89	110.24	+ 0.83	0.34
Global Tech	264.14	278.79	- 3.42	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	198.54	212.31	+ 2.20	0.40
European	678.51	718.43†	+ 3.33	0.20
European Income #	101.36	107.35	- 0.02	2.94
Euro Smlr Cos	219.69	232.77†	- 0.41	0.90
European Value	103.14	109.11†	+ 0.54	0.03
-do- Accum	110.20	117.03	+ 0.58	0.03
Japan Trust	176.60	187.96	+ 1.47	
Japan Smllr Cos	158.94	168.35†	+ 1.65	
Pacific Smlr Cos	222.04	236.55†	+ 1.38	
North American	337.18	357.82	+ 2.78	
American Smaller	164.19	175.19†	+ 1.74	

HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income & Growth #	165.60	175.40	- 3.70	5.16

HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS
0181 686 4355

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	134.39	140.72†	+ 0.39	1.77
Capital	215.76	225.92	+ 0.72	1.51
Dollar	520.96	545.51	+ 4.50	
Enterprise Gth	453.60	474.98†	+ 1.33	1.00
European	303.85	317.96	+ 2.01	0.14
Far East	297.30	311.31	+ 1.06	0.48
Financial	£11.85	£12.41†	+ 12.58	1.64
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.23	27.28†	+ 0.03	6.98
High Yield #	121.41	127.14	+ 0.11	4.72
Income & Growth #	176.41	184.72†	+ 0.23	3.55
International	297.48	311.59	+ 1.69	0.35
Japanese General	166.20	174.03	+ 1.98	
Japan Tech	74.69	78.20	+ 0.34	
Natl Resources	78.73	80.34†	+ 0.73	0.49
Portfolio	88.02	92.17†	- 0.25	1.46
Special Sits	240.72	252.06	+ 0.41	0.03
UK Emerging Cos	139.34	145.90	+ 0.08	0.98
US Smaller Cos	145.82	152.70	+ 1.78	

HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Advisers 0800 181 880 Investors 0800 289 505

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	698.10	745.00	+ 0.90	4.52
UK Growth	765.50	817.00†	- 1.10	1.47
High Income #	124.20	132.60†	- 0.10	5.78
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	659.80	698.20†	+ 1.90	0.30
European Gwth	163.40	173.70	+ 1.40	0.12
Japan Gwth	228.10	242.30	+ 1.30	
Japan Smllr Cos	24.54	26.19	+ 0.27	
Asian	61.22	65.34	+ 0.42	
Sing & Malay Gwth	84.04	89.69	- 0.17	
Hong Kong Gwth	184.20	196.40†	+ 4.30	0.68
Global Bond	20.93	22.05	+ 0.17	4.97
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	185.30	186.20		2.89
Trible Index	137.30	140.60	- 0.30	2.04
THE FOOTSIE FUND	73.21	73.58	+ 0.02	2.25
Index Funds-International				
American Index	318.70	318.30	+ 2.28	0.94
Eurotrack 100	214.70	215.80	+ 1.20	1.37
Japan Index	60.15	60.45	+ 0.48	0.11
Tiger Index	184.00	188.20	+ 0.60	0.15

INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	55.70	58.17	+ 0.04	1.18
General Funds				
Managed Dist	93.65	97.81	+ 0.34	1.05
Managed	96.60	100.90	+ 0.38	1.05
Report Child Fnd	115.20	120.20†		1.92
UK Growth	78.16	81.63	- 0.25	1.60
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	94.88	99.10	- 0.14	5.45
Gilt & Fixed Int #	27.06	27.90†	+ 0.02	7.56
UK Inc & Gwth	52.60	54.93†	+ 0.03	2.67
UK Income #	410.30	428.40†	- 0.30	4.27
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	63.59	66.03†	+ 0.89	.
Amer Smllr Cos	144.20	150.60	+ 2.60	
-do- Accum	145.70	152.20	+ 2.60	
Europe Gth	260.50	271.00	+ 1.60	.
-do- Accum	268.80	280.70	+ 1.70	..
Euro Smaller Cos	49.19	51.19	+ 0.14	
French Growth	103.50	107.60	+ 1.60	0.18
-do- Accum	112.10	116.40	+ 1.80	0.18
H Kong & China	124.40	129.30	+ 2.70	0.63
Intl Growth	70.85	73.71	+ 0.40	0.37
-do- Accum	72.19	75.10	+ 0.40	0.37
Japan Gth	24.07	25.01	+ 0.14	
-do- Accum	24.07	25.01	+ 0.14	.
Japan Smaller Cos	27.14	28.21	+ 0.40	
Glob Emg Mkts	102.10	106.50	+ 1.20	
-do- Accum	102.80	107.30	+ 1.30	0.11
SE Asia	346.20	361.60†	+ 3.90	
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	49.07	51.38	+ 0.33	5.36

JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc #	114.00	121.40†	+ 0.40	3.36
Sector Value Gth	117.20	124.80†	+ 0.40	1.69
Hi 5 Europe	108.50	114.10	+ 1.10	1.95
Slater Gwth	208.50	222.40	- 0.10	0.90
New Japan	77.30	81.61	+ 0.78	

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	178.60	189.90	+ 1.40	
Income #	242.51	257.98	- 1.19	4.02
UK Growth	94.28	100.29	- 0.87	1.84
Intl Growth	90.82	96.61	+ 0.90	0.58
Ecology	111.25	118.35†	+ 0.35	0.86
European	229.57	244.17	+ 1.33	0.20
Far Eastern	309.30	329.00	+ 1.80	.
UK Special Sits	59.98	63.97†	- 0.61	0.38
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.21	59.95	- 0.04	
High Income #	54.87	58.52†	+ 0.14	4.78

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KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.60	105.00†		7.03
Euro Prfv Inc	110.80	117.90	+ 0.70	2.75
-do- Accum	110.80	117.90	+ 0.70	2.75
Gilt Yield	119.50	126.00†		6.42
Global Income	238.80	254.00	+ 0.90	3.14
High Yield	173.00	184.00†	- 0.90	5.07
-do- Accum	583.00	620.20†	- 3.30	5.07
Money Market	99.58	99.58†	+ 0.01	5.36
Smlr Cos Div	67.18	71.47	+ 0.10	3.62
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.45	10.59	- 0.01	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	152.00	161.70	+ 2.30	
Asian Growth	311.10	331.00	+ 1.20	
-do- Accum	365.60	388.90	+ 1.30	
North American	115.30	122.70	+ 1.17	
European Special	143.30	152.40	+ 0.50	1.09
European	194.80	207.20	+ 1.70	0.46
-do- Accum	258.00	274.50	+ 2.40	0.46
Global Eqty Inc	126.70	134.50†	+ 0.10	2.07
Japan	346.00	368.10	+ 1.00	
Japanese Special	177.20	189.50†	+ 2.00	
Smaller Cos	160.00	170.20	- 0.10	0.98
UK Equity Growth	60.87	64.75†	+ 0.01	1.10
UK Index Inc	372.20	374.10	+ 0.34	3.55
Barham Tst	111.60	119.90†	+ 0.80	2.09
-do- Accum	113.50	121.90†	+ 0.80	2.09

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bridge Income	334.70	356.06†	- 0.37	4.64
Esk Growth	101.59	108.07†		1.39
Inc & Growth	99.39	105.20	+ 0.09	3.53
Smaller Cos	99.63	105.99†	+ 0.22	1.12
Evr Sml Cos Inc	252.23	268.33	+ 0.18	2.13
Evr Sml Cos Acc	455.56	484.64	+ 0.34	2.13
Evr Recovery Inc	64.13	68.22	+ 0.31	1.99
Evr Recovery Acc	66.93	71.20	+ 0.32	1.99

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01277 690 432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Cap	496.80	527.10	+ 0.60	1.65
UK Inc/Gth #	529.50	561.80	+ 0.50	3.41
UK Income #	380.00	403.30	+ 0.20	4.18
UK Sm Cos	322.00	344.60†	+ 0.10	1.71
Euro Gwth	173.90	184.50	+ 1.20	0.15
N Amer Gwth	125.70	133.40†	+ 0.70	
Japan Growth	47.93	50.85	+ 0.54	

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Dist	642.30	642.30†	+ 0.40	2.50
-do- Accum	973.30	973.30†	+ 0.60	2.50
Equity Income	111.00	111.00	+ 0.10	4.69
UK Tactical Allocn	73.83	73.83†	+ 0.13	4.33
European	158.30	158.30	+ 1.10	0.83
Far Eastern	219.60	219.60	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest	55.08	55.08	- 0.02	7.08
Gilt	91.25	91.25†	- 0.06	6.28
Global Growth	81.94	81.94	+ 0.15	0.34
Intl Bond	49.11	49.11	+ 0.35	5.33
Japanese	59.30	59.30	+ 0.45	
North American	232.20	232.20	+ 1.40	0.50
Pacific Growth	121.00	121.00	+ 0.60	0.17
Pacific Index	47.37	47.37	+ 0.24	
UK Index	84.14	84.14†		3.00
UK Recovery	122.70	122.70†	- 0.10	1.87
UK Smaller Cos	169.90	169.30		1.12
US Index	91.74	91.74	+ 0.76	1.06
European Index	99.77	99.77	+ 0.66	1.52
Japan Index	30.89	30.89	+ 0.22	
Worldwide	103.70	103.70	+ 0.40	1.41

LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth	61.45	65.73	- 0.02	2.58
Income	71.84	76.83	+ 0.08	4.10
Far East	45.92	49.11†	+ 0.39	
North America	132.20	141.20	+ 1.90	
Global	97.32	104.00	+ 0.60	0.31
European	109.30	116.50	+ 1.20	0.69
Japan	78.07	83.47	+ 0.72	
Intl Currency Bd	55.78	59.06†	+ 0.32	4.87
SE Asia	99.85	106.70†	+ 0.50	0.34
UK Cap Growth	112.00	119.70†	- 0.10	1.50
Recovery Trust	95.66	102.30†	- 0.20	1.38
Managed	75.64	80.89	+ 0.40	1.82
Cash	50.45	50.45	+ 0.01	4.32

LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Helpdesk: 01634 834 330 Dealing: 01634 834 313

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	448.70	477.40	+ 6.40	2.36
-do- Accum	£10.71	£11.40	+ 14.00	2.36
Contl Euro Gth	87.72	93.34	+ 0.72	0.11
-do- Accum	94.39	99.85	+ 0.76	0.11
Extra Inc #	312.90	332.90	- 4.00	3.90
Extra Inc Acc #	872.60	928.40	+ 11.60	3.90
FTSE 100 Inc	136.90	145.70	+ 0.50	2.63
FTSE 100 Acc	143.00	152.20	+ 0.60	2.63
German Gth	155.90	164.29	+ 1.10	
-do- Accum	163.50	172.20	+ 1.20	...
Growth Pod	703.90	748.90	+ 2.70	0.08
-do- Accum	733.60	780.50	+ 2.90	0.06
High Interest Inc	100.70	104.40†		7.71
High Interest Acc	110.10	114.10	+ 0.10	7.71
Hi Reserve Inc #	111.70	118.90	+ 0.30	5.83
Hi Reserve Acc #	124.60	132.60	+ 0.30	5.83
Income Inc #	604.40	643.00†	+ 8.70	3.38
Income Acc #	£17.54	£18.66	+ 24.00	3.38
Income Port	598.60	636.90†	+ 5.00	4.34
-do- Accum	690.10	734.20	+ 6.00	4.34
Japan Growth	84.54	89.94	+ 0.38	
-do- Accum	84.83	90.25	+ 0.37	..
Master Trust	71.49	76.06	+ 0.23	1.29
-do- Accum	82.56	87.83	+ 0.27	1.29
Millennium Acc	102.20	108.80†	.	2.20
N American Gen	257.50	274.00	+ 2.80	...
-do- Accum	298.00	317.10	+ 3.10	
NAm Sm Co Rec	170.20	181.10	+ 2.00	
-do- Accum	173.70	184.80	+ 2.10	
Pacific Basin	244.80	260.30	+ 1.50	0.46
-do- Accum	263.70	277.40	+ 1.60	0.46
Safety First Acc	99.46	104.70	+ 0.20	2.03
Do until 12/1/98 ‡	90.25		...	
Small Cos Rec	557.80	587.80	+ 15.10	1.83
-do- Accum	770.20	810.80	+ 20.90	1.83
UK Eq Gth	180.80	192.40†	+ 0.80	2.29
UK Eq Inc #	140.60	149.80†	+ 0.59	4.00
UK Growth	116.20	123.70	+ 1.60	1.72
-do- Accum	147.10	156.50	+ 2.10	1.72
Worldwide Gth	361.10	384.20	+ 2.90	0.38
-do- Accum	534.20	568.30	+ 4.20	0.38

LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT
01392 282 673

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	93.96	100.60	+ 1.10	0.60
General	118.09	126.70	+ 0.41	2.70
Income	79.96	85.79†	- 0.20	4.80
International	74.76	80.21	+ 0.79	0.50
Japan	46.31	49.67	+ 0.59	
Tst of Inv Tsts	80.08	85.92†	+ 0.10	1.00

M & G SECURITIES
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer & General	542.80	573.20	+ 3.80	0.38
-do- Accum	680.20	718.30	+ 4.80	0.38
Amer Recovery	623.80	659.70	+ 5.40	0.11
-do- Accum	721.40	763.00	+ 6.30	0.11
Amer Smllr Cos	140.90	149.00	+ 3.00	
-do- Accum	144.00	152.20	+ 3.00	.
Australasian	226.18	239.10	+ 2.30	1.96
-do- Accum	286.70	303.20	+ 2.90	1.96
Capital	1026.70	1084.70	- 1.20	2.84
-do- Accum	1237.40	1308.60	- 1.40	2.84
Charifund	852.50	881.10	- 2.10	5.57
-do- Accum	4489.80	4534.70	- 11.00	5.57
Commodity	503.70	532.70	+ 9.40	0.34
-do- Accum	744.80	787.70	+ 13.90	0.34
Compound Grth	1179.00	1246.60†	- 2.70	2.79
-do- Accum	1318.40	1394.30†	- 3.00	2.79
Corporate Bond	26.11	26.21†		7.23
Dividend	47.89	50.60	- 0.10	4.64
-do- Accum	217.00	229.50	- 0.50	4.64
Equity Income	353.10	373.40	- 0.30	5.36
-do- Accum	500.40	529.10	- 0.50	5.36
Euro & General	686.20	726.30	+ 5.50	0.65
-do- Accum	896.70	948.20	+ 7.00	0.65
Euro Dividend	88.30	93.40	+ 0.30	3.54
-do- Accum	113.30	119.90	+ 0.40	3.54
Euro Smlr Cos	57.50	60.80	+ 0.30	0.50
-do- Accum	57.50	60.80	+ 0.30	0.50
Extra Yield	499.80	528.50†	- 1.50	5.06
-do- Accum	1715.80	1814.30†	- 5.10	5.06
Fund of Inv Tsts	738.50	781.00	+ 0.80	1.59
-do- Accum	1426.80	1508.70	+ 1.50	1.59
General	74.30	78.60	- 0.30	3.72
-do- Accum	222.90	235.90	- 1.00	3.72
Gilt Income	62.91	63.01	+ 0.02	6.80
-do- Accum	196.15	196.44	+ 0.06	6.80
Gold	65.90	69.70	+ 0.80	0.86
-do- Accum	79.00	83.70	+ 1.00	0.86
High Income	35.80	37.90	- 0.10	4.67
-do- Accum	155.90	165.10	- 0.40	4.67
Intl Growth	92.00	97.30	+ 0.40	0.80
-do- Accum	163.80	172.40	+ 0.70	0.80
International Inc	115.10	121.70†	+ 0.20	4.34
-do- Accum	187.20	197.90†	+ 0.30	4.34
Japan & Gen	30.70	32.40		
-do- Accum	33.00	34.80		.
Japan Smlr Cos	106.10	112.20	+ 0.60	
-do- Accum	106.90	112.90	+ 0.50	
Managed Gwth	28.00	29.50	..	1.61
Managed Income	31.50	33.10†		4.26
Midland	62.60	66.20†	- 0.10	3.15
-do- Accum	222.80	235.70†	- 0.30	3.15
Pension Ex	1173.50	1202.90	- 3.00	4.07
Recovery	49.50	52.30	- 0.20	2.88
-do- Accum	85.90	90.80	- 0.30	2.88
Second General	79.30	83.90	- 0.30	3.81
-do- Accum	219.40	232.10	- 0.90	3.81
Smaller Cos	68.20	72.10		3.09
-do- Accum	143.30	151.80		3.09
Sth East Asia	389.10	411.50	+ 1.90	1.26
-do- Accum	522.10	552.20	+ 2.60	1.26
Treasury	25.09	25.14†		5.88
Trustee	46.70	49.40†	- 0.10	4.97
-do- Accum	207.00	219.30†	- 0.40	4.97

MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	110.76	117.82†	+ 1.31	0.53
Intl Bond	62.79	65.98	+ 0.40	4.96
Intl Equity Growth	87.63	93.12	+ 0.74	0.61
N Amer Growth	144.78	153.80†	+ 1.07	0.85
Special Sits Growth	30.74	32.70†	+ 0.08	2.09
UK Growth	503.12	535.23†	+ 1.51	2.58
-do- Accum	701.83	746.62	+ 2.11	2.58

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01629 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1457.00	1489.30		3.30
Income #	1067.90	1084.30		4.60

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	178.80	182.30†		3.40

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Inc #	98.19	99.16	- 0.03	6.77
M & S Inv Pfolio	188.20	194.00	- 0.20	2.39
-do- Accum	225.60	232.60	- 0.10	2.39
UK Sel Pfolio	171.70	177.00	- 0.70	2.36
-do- Accum	209.00	215.50	- 0.80	2.36
UK 100 Cos	129.90	129.90†	- 0.30	2.48
-do- Accum	133.10	133.10†	- 0.40	2.48

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	71.16	75.70		3.51

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	90.87	96.46†	+ 0.31	3.12
European	112.20	119.10	+ 0.80	0.79
Income #	91.60	97.24	- 0.58	3.21
Nth American	102.50	108.80	+ 0.80	0.02
Far East	179.40	190.40	- 1.00	0.19
Japan	54.54	57.90†	+ 0.26	
Emrgng Mkts	97.27	104.00	+ 1.20	
Intl Growth	140.00	148.60†	+ 0.90	0.79
UK Growth	133.70	141.90	- 1.20	2.13
UK Smlr Co	67.20	71.34	- 0.48	1.32
Asia Pacific	38.94	41.65	+ 0.29	0.37
Glob Gwth PEP	68.83	73.06	+ 0.18	0.32

MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0161 831 7433

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Select Portfolio	103.60	110.30†	+ 1.40	.

MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD
0171 497 5866

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income	502.97	535.07†		3.28
Global Inc	78.63	83.65†	+ 0.28	3.59
Brit Leaders	407.96	434.00†	- 2.73	1.62
Intl Leaders	241.38	256.79†	+ 2.06	0.68
PAM Mg Bal Gth	72.49	75.31†	+ 0.44	0.35

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 0800 445522

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	294.50	310.80	+ 3.600	
-do- Accum	314.90	332.30	+ 3.800	
American Opps	109.70	117.00	+ 1.400	
-do- Accum	111.10	118.50	+ 1.500	
British Blue Chip	106.50	113.00†	+ 0.300	2.66
-do- Accum	138.90	147.50†	+ 0.500	2.66
Cash	101.20	101.20		5.61
-do- Accum	151.90	151.90		5.61
Emerging Mkts	145.50	156.50	+ 2.000	0.66
-do- Accum	147.40	158.50	+ 2.100	0.66
European Growth	357.10	377.80	+ 3.200	0.50
-do- Accum	389.30	412.00	+ 3.600	0.50
European Income	96.81	102.50	+ 0.500	4.00
-do- Accum	140.60	148.80	+ 0.600	4.00
General	645.50	686.20†	- 1.10	2.30
-do- Accum	1338.00	1422.00†	- 2.00	2.30
Global Bond	126.50	133.00†	+ 0.900	5.31
-do- Accum	171.90	180.70†	+ 1.100	5.31
Gold & General	189.90	203.80	+ 0.500	0.36
-do- Accum	196.50	211.00	+ 0.700	0.36
Govt Securities	95.94	98.91	+ 0.030	5.81
-do- Accum	208.00	212.30		5.81
High Yield Bd	102.70	105.30†	+ 0.100	6.96
-do- Accum	112.20	114.50†		6.96
Income	205.00	217.70	+ 0.700	4.13
-do- Accum	347.50	369.10	+ 1.100	4.13
Inc Portfolio #	117.80	124.70†	+ 0.300	5.03
-do- Accum #	131.70	139.40†	+ 0.400	5.03
Intl Opps	564.10	601.70	+ 2.800	0.80
-do- Accum	764.20	815.10	+ 3.700	0.80
Japan	147.00	156.70	+ 1.900	
-do- Accum	150.90	160.90	+ 1.900	
New Europe	260.00	277.30	+ 1.600	1.01
-do- Accum	272.80	291.00	+ 1.700	1.01
Pacific	109.80	117.10	- 0.800	0.47
-do- Accum	118.70	126.10	- 0.700	0.47
Recovery	500.30	533.60†	+ 0.500	1.83
-do- Accum	666.10	710.50†	+ 0.500	1.83
UK Smaller Cos	65.97	70.37†	+ 0.090	1.44
-do- Accum	76.33	81.42†	+ 0.100	1.44
Portfolio	98.73	104.60†	+ 0.200	2.47
-do- Accum	122.50	130.90†	+ 0.300	2.47
Managed Gth	127.80	133.70	+ 0.600	1.89
Managed Inc	125.70	130.50	+ 0.500	4.08

METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD
01707 662 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eurogrowth Plus	169.70	180.53	+ 1.60	0.13
Portfolio	85.51	90.97	+ 0.26	1.32
UK Income Inc	99.66	106.23†	+ 0.20	4.45

MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	72.13	76.58†	- 0.19	2.54
-do- Accum	81.92	85.78†	- 0.21	2.54
British Tst	116.40	121.90	- 0.10	2.24
-do- Accum	142.30	149.00	- 0.10	2.24
Corp Bond Inc	100.60	104.30		6.53
-do- Accum	105.80	109.60		6.53
Extra High Inc	74.15	77.64†	+ 0.02	6.86
-do- Accum	164.10	171.80†	+ 0.10	6.66
FTSE 100 Acc	78.40	82.09	+ 0.02	2.21
FTSE 100 Dist	73.06	76.50	+ 0.02	2.23
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.25	58.53	0.02	6.43
-do- Accum	183.90	191.40	- 0.10	6.43
High Yield	256.60	268.70	- 0.10	5.36
-do- Accum	718.30	752.10	+ 0.30	5.36
Household Name	102.30	102.80		7.24
Income	349.50	366.00	+ 0.10	3.71
-do- Accum	633.80	673.10	+ 0.38	3.71
Money Market UT	49.73	49.74	+ 0.01	5.18
-do- Accum	85.11	85.13	+ 0.02	5.18
Monthly Income	101.10	105.90†		4.16
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	145.50	150.00		1.23
European Growth	145.70	154.50	- 1.00	0.01
Gilt & Fixed	103.30	109.60	- 0.10	5.06
Income	114.70	122.00	+ 0.20	2.09
Japan Growth	38.94	41.17	+ 0.37	.
Managed	89.42	95.13	0.54	1.95
Money Market	97.99	103.90		3.87
North American	116.20	123.20	+ 2.50	0.38
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	135.50	144.20		1.23
European Growth	136.70	144.90	- 1.00	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	97.09	103.00		5.10
Income	112.30	119.50	- 0.10	2.15
Japan Growth	38.73	41.05	- 0.35	
Managed	85.99	91.48	- 0.12	1.82
Money Market	90.27	95.71	+ 0.03	3.84
North American	104.60	110.90	- 2.20	0.34
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	134.40	143.00		1.23
European Growth	133.80	141.80	- 0.90	
Gilt & Fixed Int	87.32	92.61	- 0.05	5.33
Income	109.10	116.10	- 0.10	2.20
Japan Growth	39.58	41.97	- 0.37	
Managed	88.63	94.29	+ 0.12	1.84
Money Market	81.99	86.93	+ 0.02	4.00
North American	117.20	124.30	- 2.60	0.34

MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	474.50	503.40	+ 6.30	
European Gth Inc	614.00	654.20	+ 4.20	
-do- Accum	620.80	661.30	+ 4.20	
Intl Gwth	239.70	254.00	+ 2.30	...
UK Equity Inc	242.00	257.60†	+ 0.20	4.01
Do Accum	335.30	356.90†	+ 0.30	4.01
UK Growth Inc	139.30	149.33	- 0.10	3.18
-do- Accum	143.70	154.00	- 0.10	3.18
UK Ind Trckr Inc	212.30	226.50		2.99
-do- Accum	265.30	282.10		2.99
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	304.40	322.30†	+ 2.50	0.92
Japan Tracker	56.28	59.34	+ 0.40	.
Asian Trader	220.80	236.20†	+ 2.00	0.28
Mngd Pfolio Inc	200.70	213.90	- 0.40	1.66
Mngd Pfolio Acc	220.20	234.80	- 0.50	1.66
Deposit Fund	100.14	100.14†	+ 0.01	5.62
Europa	374.50	394.00	- 0.10	
Genesis	229.50	246.80	+ 0.60	2.29
High Income	20.85	22.11		10.00

MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT
0345 090 933

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Acumen	115.60	118.10†	+ 0.50	1.90
Acumen Inc	104.00	106.30†	+ 0.50	1.96
Acumen Reserve	98.74	99.73†	- 0.08	6.88
-do- Inc	74.10	74.84†	+ 0.06	6.88
American Growth	72.55	74.65	+ 1.32	
Equity Income #	114.60	117.90†	- 0.40	3.85
European	92.57	94.22	- 0.55	0.74
Smaller Cos	104.30	108.70	+ 0.40	1.10
W'wide Eqty	81.00	82.66	+ 0.32	.
Global Bond	41.44	41.88	+ 0.32	5.21
UK Growth	125.70	129.30†	+ 0.60	1.19
Pacific Growth	114.20	117.40	- 0.20	0.40
Japan Growth	84.23	85.59	- 0.34	

NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Avon Equity	162.39	172.76	- 0.74	2.36

For N&P see Abbey National

NPI INVESTMENT MGRS
0171 623 4200

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Dist	131.20	138.10	+ 1.30	0.25
European Dist	166.00	174.70	+ 1.20	0.28
Far East Dist	173.60	182.70	+ 1.00	
Global Care Dist	91.95	96.77	+ 0.80	0.48
Oseas Dist	1144.00	1204.20†	+ 4.40	
-do- Accum	1486.90	1565.20	+ 5.70	
UK Dist	470.40	495.20	+ 0.20	1.64
-do- Accum	965.70	1016.60	+ 0.40	1.64
UK Extra Inc Dist	100.10	105.37	+ 0.12	3
Wwide Dist	121.40	127.80†	+ 0.30	0.09
Wwide Inc Dist	91.05	95.84†	+ 0.10	1.45

NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Dlg: 01277 690 280 Admin Enq: 01277 690 398

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Europe Inc	87.08	91.90†	- 0.77	0.33
Fund of Funds Inc	73.49	77.56	- 0.27	1.32
North America Inc	68.35	72.77	+ 0.72	
UK Equity Gth Inc	74.77	78.91	- 0.02	1.95
-do- Accum	81.26	85.76	+ 0.03	1.95
UK General Inc	71.76	75.76†	- 0.02	2.44
-do- Accum	80.43	84.89	- 0.02	2.44
UK Gilt/Fxd Inf Inc	47.28	49.91†	+ 0.04	5.55
UK Income Inc	72.20	76.20	+ 0.08	4.00
UK Smlr Cos Inc	125.30	133.50†		0.97

NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	54.45	57.92	+ 0.63	.
-do- Accum	54.86	58.36	+ 0.63	
Bond	126.99	134.76	+ 0.45	5.36
Cash Income	51.04	51.34	+ 0.01	5.28
-do- Accum	70.73	70.73		5.28
Distribution	112.85	120.05†	- 0.31	2.77
European	60.87	64.75	+ 0.61	
Foundation	120.03	127.68†	- 0.19	2.45
General Inc	241.85	257.29	+ 1.17	1.34
General Acc	245.36	261.02	+ 1.19	1.34
Growth Inc	153.95	163.77†	- 0.35	2.03
Growth Acc	159.74	169.93†	- 0.36	2.03
Higher Income Inc	35.22	37.46†	- 0.34	4.78
-do- Accum	43.86	46.64†	+ 0.54	4.76
Income	290.12	308.63†	+ 0.16	3.28
Intrepid	159.49	181.93		1.38
Intl Gwth	40.42	42.00†	+ 0.37	
Japan	24.58	26.57	+ 0.18	.
Oriental Inc	145.79	155.09	- 1.06	0.36
-do- Accum	150.99	160.62	- 1.10	0.36

NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD
0191 285 2556

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income #	50.93	53.89†	+ 0.10	5.90
UK Growth	30.50	32.50		2.47

NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS
01603 682 234

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Master Inst	149.45	157.32†	- 0.59	1.17
UK Equity	185.26	195.01	- 0.11	2.63
UK Equity Income	167.38	176.19	+ 0.12	3.36
UK Smaller Cos	153.17	161.23	- 0.03	1.21
UK Equity Growth	166.06	174.80†	- 0.12	0.99
UK Index Trckg	185.44	195.20†	- 0.07	2.57
Intl Index Trckg	174.51	184.19	+ 1.36	0.84
International	284.44	299.41†	+ 1.71	0.71
European	274.24	288.67	+ 2.19	0.09
Pan European	181.36	190.69	+ 0.73	1.21
Nth American	260.68	274.40	+ 2.03	0.51
N Amer Smlr Cos	265.90	279.89	+ 1.92	
Japanese	78.38	82.51	+ 0.75	
Pacific	226.92	238.86	- 1.52	0.50
South East Asian	271.94	286.25†	- 1.62	0.53
Sterling Bond	101.31	106.64†	- 0.02	6.59
Intl Bond	125.17	131.76	+ 0.85	5.05
Gilt & Convertible	111.13	116.98	- 0.03	5.89
Property	87.31	91.91	+ 0.08	5.59

OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD
01256 768 888

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	380.80	409.20	+ 3.10	0.12
-do- Accum	404.50	434.60	+ 3.30	0.12
Japan Inc	88.27	93.70	+ 0.65	
Nth American Inc	167.50	177.90	+ 2.00	0.04
Worldwide Inc	189.30	202.10	+ 1.80	0.12
Hong Kong Inc	189.90	202.60	+ 2.80	0.99
Swiss Equities Inc	95.91	102.30†	+ 0.80	
Wwide Bond Inc	66.06	69.83†	+ 0.35	5.18
Emerg Asia Inc	184.60	196.30	+ 1.10	
-do- Accum	185.30	199.80	+ 1.30	
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.48	50.48	+ 0.01	5.21
Thailand Inc	89.17	95.29	+ 0.47	2.22
New Zealand Inc	99.99	107.30	+ 0.50	3.25
Int Mngd PEP Inc	75.86	81.28†	+ 0.41	0.62
Latin Am Emg Inc	77.49	82.97	+ 1.54	0.81
UK All Sh Mkr Inc	76.72	78.00†	- 0.01	2.23
Broker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Blue	84.42	90.32	+ 0.52	
Global Portfolio	73.84	78.97	+ 0.57	
Way Global Red	65.82	70.40	+ 0.36	.
Marsh Global Gth	66.01	70.00†	+ 0.25	
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	117.60	125.90†	- 0.10	0.69
Templa Equity Inc	51.89	56.18		2.70
Hartley Growth	131.40	139.80	+ 0.50	0.27
Intl Growth Inc	85.08	90.99	+ 0.40	0.01
IPS Portfolio Inc	95.93	102.60	+ 0.90	
Premier Portfc Inc	71.09	76.03		1.38
Roxburgh Strat Gth	79.07	84.57	+ 0.36	0.16
International Strat	83.88	89.23†	+ 0.59	
UFC Growth	66.13	70.73†	+ 0.40	
Chartfield Port of Fds	56.97	60.45	+ 1.22	
Lowes Intl Growth	49.39	51.98		1.24

PM UT MGRS LTD
0171 588 3963

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Gth	258.50	275.00	+ 0.20	1.40
European Gth	144.20	153.00†	+ 1.00	0.43
Income & Gth #	169.40	180.20	- 0.20	2.94
Japan Gth	88.64	94.30†	+ 0.66	
Nth Amer Gth	232.30	246.90†	+ 2.40	0.02
Overseas Gth	127.50	135.60†	+ 0.90	

PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity	301.30	320.40	- 2.70	1.85
-do- Accum	666.50	709.00	- 5.90	1.85
Growth	195.90	206.10	- 2.20	2.08
Income	287.60	305.90†	- 3.30	3.52
Intl Equity	289.80	308.20	+ 2.20	0.25
-do- Accum	324.50	345.10	+ 2.50	0.25
UK Income #	79.65	84.73	+ 0.14	4.86
UK Intl 25	102.20	108.70	- 0.40	1.34
New Europe	114.70	122.00	+ 1.30	.

PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT
01491 417 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	735.62	785.33	+ 1.31	0.71
-do- Accum	740.19	790.82	+ 1.32	0.71
Income	494.94	529.35†	+ 1.72	2.94
Wwide Recovery	477.64	510.85	+ 1.18	0.79
Amer Growth Inc	304.07	323.56	+ 1.83	0.01
-do- Accum	304.07	323.56	+ 1.83	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	287.64	307.64	+ 0.58	0.64
Far East Grth Inc	304.58	325.76	- 0.98	0.64
-do- Accum	308.38	329.82	- 1.00	0.84
Euro Gwth Inc	208.05	222.22	0.39	0.67
-do- Accum	208.77	222.99	- 0.40	0.67
UK Growth Inc	128.33	137.26†	+ 0.23	2.53
-do- Accum	141.06	150.87	+ 0.26	2.53
High Income	128.81	137.77	+ 0.51	3.50
Jap Grwth Inc	156.43	167.31†	+ 0.05	0.12
-do- Accum	156.43	167.31	+ 0.05	0.12
PEP Bond	57.42	59.94	+ 0.12	6.94
PEP Growth	154.82	165.57	+ 0.28	0.72
Asian Sh Mkts Inc	133.59	142.88	0.58	0.28
-do- Accum	134.03	143.35	- 0.57	0.28
Amer Smlr Co Inc	189.77	202.81	+ 1.07	0.01
-do- Accum	189.77	202.81	+ 1.07	0.01
Global Bond	53.99	56.92†	0.08	4.94
UK Smaller Cos Inc	117.97	126.18	+ 0.05	1.56
-do- Accum	125.67	134.41	+ 0.05	1.56
Lat Am Gwth Inc	39.64	42.40	+ 0.34	0.19
-do- Accum	40.01	42.80	+ 0.34	0.19

PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0191 201 3927

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	133.44	141.96	+ 1.11	
European	104.87	111.56	+ 0.78	
Global	70.56	75.06	+ 0.36	
Pacific	55.24	58.55†	+ 0.38	
UK Inc & Grth	88.28	93.92†	+ 0.46	1.45

PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia Acc	50.93	54.18	+ 0.56	0.01
Emerg Mkts	50.25	53.17	+ 0.79	0.98
Euro Fund Acc	46.07	49.27	+ 0.33	0.73
Fund of Funds Inc	208.12	220.23†	+ 1.30	0.54
Fund of Funds Acc	210.01	222.29	+ 1.31	0.54
High Income #	56.68	59.98†	+ 0.18	5.42
Performance	51.19	54.46	+ 0.27	...

PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01732 740 700

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Principal Tst	184.84	191.94	+ 0.17	2.17

PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Income	130.60	139.00	+ 1.60	2.80
Conv & Gilt	124.90	132.90	- 0.20	4.81
Euro Spc Sit Acc	105.20	111.90		2.18
Extra Income	193.50	205.80†	+ 0.20	4.44
-do- Accum	257.00	273.40	+ 0.40	4.44
Far East	390.90	415.90	+ 4.60	0.59
-do- Accum	399.10	424.60	+ 4.70	0.59
Global Income	30.04	31.88	+ 0.11	4.04
High Income	146.70	156.10†	+ 0.20	4.32
-do- Accum	191.90	204.20	+ 0.20	4.32
International	224.70	239.10	+ 4.00	0.50
-do- Accum	234.10	249.00	+ 4.10	0.50
Pref & Fxd Int	46.00	48.93†		8.91
Recovery	99.52	105.90	- 0.90	2.27
Special Sits	162.10	172.40	+ 0.20	1.57
-do- Accum	180.80	192.30	+ 0.20	1.57
Technology	640.40	681.20	+ 12.10	
UK Blue Chip	98.06	104.30		2.80
-do- Accum	115.50	122.90	+ 0.10	2.80

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Dealing: 0345 835505 Client Enq: 0345 835500

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	47.44	49.16	- 0.10	1.42
Cash Haven Inc	101.63	102.13	+ 0.01	4.98
Cash Haven Acc	121.47	122.07	- 0.01	4.98
Dist Trust Inc	110.47	114.48†	- 0.01	5.47
Dist Trust Acc	128.17	132.82	0.02	5.47
Global Growth	111.17	118.27	+ 0.37	1.05
Equity Inc	97.21	103.41	+ 0.01	4.12
Equity	959.82	1021.21†	- 7.26	2.20
European	295.19	305.90	+ 2.34	0.62
High Income	98.86	105.19†		4.83
Intl Gth	98.87	104.97	- 1.34	0.81
Intl Sm Co	98.14	104.40†	- 0.71	0.46
Japanese	165.84	171.85	+ 1.54	
Mgd Income Tst #	48.76	50.43	+ 0.02	7.99
Nth Amer	258.73	269.20	+ 1.94	1.03
Pacific Mkts	114.38	118.51	+ 0.85	0.59
Premier Inc	49.02	49.98†	- 0.03	6.58
Sm Cos	115.21	122.56†	- 0.44	1.85
Spec Sits	139.23	148.12	0.27	2.32
UK Growth	163.47	173.90	- 0.17	2.20

QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Hs Inc Inv Inc	90.41	95.07†	- 0.02	3.39
Investment Trust	124.79	131.22†	+ 0.16	0.57
UK Smaller Cos	120.03	126.21	- 0.07	1.35

RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD
01892 510 033

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British Life	370.30	392.80†	+ 0.80	2.60

ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT
Dealers: 0171 623 1000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Five Arrows Funds				
America (Inc)	725.02	768.71	+ 15.36	0.08
America (Acc)	849.52	900.70	+ 18.00	0.08
Amer Smllr Cos	62.30	66.37	+ 0.73	
Asia	52.39	56.17	+ 0.90	.
European	445.80	472.93	+ 5.25	0.07
Japan	182.93	194.58	+ 1.15	
Jap Smllr Cos	28.81	30.75	+ 0.73	
Major UK Cos	133.26	141.69	- 0.65	1.65
Smlr UK Cos	453.57	482.58†	- 0.85	0.79
UK Equity Inc #	203.74	217.61	+ 0.79	4.00
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	50.56	52.80	+ 0.32	
Cash	49.40	50.40		2.84
Emerging Mkts	52.95	55.29	+ 0.40	
Europe	67.28	70.26	+ 0.60	
Global Fixed Int #	48.89	51.06	+ 0.12	5.31
Japan	33.88	35.38	+ 0.37	
North America	69.23	72.30	+ 1.04	
UK	72.03	75.22	+ 0.50	0.53
UK Equity Inc #	67.35	70.33	+ 0.41	3.49
UK Fixed Int #	51.80	54.09	+ 0.05	7.10
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	53.90	55.85	+ 0.47	
Pep Inc Port #	54.39	56.36	+ 0.30	2.90
RAM Personal Pension				
Deposit	92.50	97.36	+ 0.01	
Gilt	106.10	111.68	+ 0.08	
Managed	125.84	132.45	- 0.92	
Portfolio	53.02	55.81	+ 0.41	

ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
United States	129.60	137.60	+ 1.50	0.31
Pacific Basin	75.53	81.07	+ 0.11	0.28
High Inc Dist	175.50	187.40†	+ 1.50	3.78
Ryl Life Int Crecy	64.68	68.33	+ 0.19	4.15
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	80.71	85.96	+ 0.76	0.09
Ryl Life Intl Spec	73.34	78.02	+ 0.83	
UK Emerging Cos	149.50	160.50	- 0.20	1.29
UK Index Trckg	220.10	233.80	+ 1.80	3.41
European	189.00	202.40	+ 3.50	0.16
Managed	192.10	207.50	+ 1.60	0.94

ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01206 764 400

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	209.50	222.50	+ 1.30	1.10
European Growth	153.40	162.60	+ 2.40	1.73
Far East Growth	148.30	157.80	+ 2.00	0.79
Japan Growth	100.20	108.50†	+ 2.00	
Special Sits	277.00	294.60†	+ 2.10	1.67
UK Growth	115.40	122.70	+ 0.70	2.54
Intl Growth	292.80	311.50†	+ 3.80	1.65

ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD
0141 307 6500

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Far East Inc	164.80	174.40	+ 0.90	0.54
Gli Euro Prog Inc	473.70	501.30	+ 2.00	0.84
-do- Accum	743.30	786.60	+ 3.10	0.84
Growth Inc	163.30	172.80	+ 0.90	0.66
-do- Accum	167.90	177.70	+ 1.00	0.66
International Inc	431.50	456.60	+ 2.70	0.63
-do- Accum	597.10	631.90	+ 3.90	0.63
Nth Am & Intl Inc	423.40	448.00	+ 3.40	0.02
UK Gen Prog Inc	274.59	290.50	- 0.70	1.54
-do- Accum	318.10	336.60	- 0.80	1.54
UK High Inc Inc	163.90	173.40	- 0.30	4.14

SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD
0171 330 0572

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asian Gwth	127.81	135.96†	+ 1.67	0.75
European Gwth	104.10	110.74	+ 0.79	1.00
Global Bd	59.63	62.97†	+ 0.16	5.00
Japan	44.27	47.09†	+ 0.58	
UK Gwth	95.81	101.92	- 0.09	1.75

SAVE & PROSPER GROUP
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Smllr Cos	141.80	150.80	+ 2.50	
Cash	138.70	138.80†	+ 0.10	5.47
China Dragon	78.12	83.11	+ 1.95	1.07
Commodity	141.80	150.80	+ 1.10	
Emerging Mkts	42.12	44.81	+ 0.36	0.40
European Gwth	267.40	284.50	+ 2.30	0.59
Euro Smllr Cos	77.21	82.14	+ 0.23	
Extra Income #	61.16	63.38	+ 0.04	5.56
Far Eastern	95.32	101.40	+ 0.20	
FE Sm Cos	41.54	44.19	+ 0.29	
Financial Secs	353.90	376.50	+ 3.90	1.10
Gold & Exploration	86.32	91.83	+ 0.67	
Growth	460.40	489.20	+ 1.70	1.70
High Income	50.07	50.07	+ 0.03	7.35
Intl Bond	153.60	162.20†	+ 1.00	5.39
ITU	247.00	262.80†	+ 0.20	0.97
Japan Growth	133.60	141.70	+ 0.90	
Japan Smaller	128.50	136.60†	+ 1.20	.
Korea	37.23	39.61	+ 0.09	..
Latin America	47.79	50.84	+ 0.84	0.39
Masterfund	66.45	66.78	+ 0.31	0.66
Premier Eq Gth	183.60	195.30	+ 0.50	1.08
Premier Eq Inc #	399.80	425.10	+ 0.90	4.42
SE Asia	47.52	50.55	+ 0.08	0.02
Southern Africa	57.60	61.28	+ 0.18	1.09
UK & O'seas	213.10	226.70	+ 0.60	0.79
UK Eqty Gth	90.61	96.39†	+ 0.29	1.27
UK Eqty Inc #	283.90	302.00	+ 0.40	4.85
UK Gth & Inc #	328.10	349.00	+ 0.60	3.27
UK Sm Cos	62.92	66.94	+ 0.06	1.03
US Growth	227.20	241.70	+ 0.89	

SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Clsc: 0800 526 535 Bdr: 0800 526 540

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Retail Funds				
American	371.40	392.63	+ 0.45	0.51
-do- Accum	411.30	434.82	+ 0.50	0.51
European Gwth	99.41	105.34	+ 0.81	0.60
Euro Smllr Cos	121.39	129.08	+ 0.93	0.35
Far Eastern Gth	101.93	108.72	+ 0.33	
-do- Accum	103.90	110.82	+ 0.34	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	52.45	55.26†	+ 0.05	7.50
Global Bond #	45.59	48.13	+ 0.22	6.46
-do- Accum #	56.89	58.77	+ 0.27	6.46
Global Emer Mkts	59.03	62.96†	+ 0.54	
-do- Accum	59.14	63.08†	+ 0.55	
Income #	454.95	485.28†	- 1.09	4.66
-do- Accum #	£15.70	£16.74†	- 3.78	4.66
Japan Smlr Cos	289.21	308.49	+ 2.69	
-do- Accum	289.79	309.11	+ 2.70	
Japan Enterprise	53.38	56.93†	+ 0.41	
Pacific Gwth	158.63	169.19	+ 0.29	0.47
-do- Accum	164.89	175.88	+ 0.30	0.47
Portfolio	100.94	107.57	+ 0.17	1.87
-do- Accum	113.17	120.60	+ 0.19	1.87
Seoul	31.99	34.12	+ 0.02	.
-do- Accum	31.98	34.12	+ 0.02	
Smaller Cos	365.94	390.33	- 1.83	1.21
-do- Accum	435.98	465.05	- 2.24	1.21
Strategic Inc	106.14	113.16	+ 0.20	2.53
Strategic Acc	107.93	115.06	+ 0.20	2.53
Tokyo	111.17	118.58†	+ 1.37	
-do- Accum	112.30	119.78†	+ 1.39	
UK Enterprise	356.60	380.37	- 1.88	2.38
-do- Accum	446.81	476.59	- 2.35	2.38
UK Equity	330.19	352.20	- 0.96	2.54
-do- Accum	673.38	718.28	- 1.92	2.54
US Smllr Cos	235.17	250.84	+ 0.81	
-do- Accum	235.17	250.84	+ 0.81	
Institutional Funds				
European	317.03	328.91	+ 2.77	1.22
-do- Accum	359.80	373.28	+ 3.13	1.22
Euro Smllr Cos	39.52	41.12	+ 0.49	0.94
-do- Accum	42.85	44.55	+ 0.53	0.94
Global Equity Inc	95.32	99.16†	+ 0.72	1.04
Japan Smllr Cos	27.24	28.37	+ 0.34	0.22
-do- Accum	27.51	28.64	+ 0.34	0.22
Mngd Balanced	233.41	243.13	+ 0.57	3.55
-do- Accum	279.08	290.71	+ 0.68	3.56
Overseas Equity	225.04	234.41	+ 2.18	1.00
-do- Accum	237.02	246.89	+ 2.30	1.00
Oseas Smllr Cos	136.56	142.24	+ 1.51	0.82
-do- Accum	145.01	151.04	+ 1.60	0.82
Pacific	278.83	290.23†	+ 0.59	1.35
-do- Accum	312.13	325.14†	+ 0.67	1.35
Recovery	£25.09	£26.14	- 6.52	2.99
-do- Accum	£27.92	£29.08	- 7.26	2.99
UK Index	204.23	212.73	+ 0.13	3.24
-do- Accum	266.39	277.49	+ 0.17	3.24
UK Small Cos	156.40	162.89	- 0.21	2.36
-do- Accum	175.13	182.42	- 0.23	2.36
US Smllr Cos	84.80	87.49†	+ 0.44	0.46
-do- Accum	86.66	89.44†	+ 0.45	0.46

SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD
0141 204 2200

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Income	65.06	68.80	+ 0.62	2.67
Equity Trust	84.69	89.56	+ 0.78	2.74
Equity Strategy	97.44	103.04	+ 0.65	1.17
European Opps	114.66	121.25	+ 1.48	0.23
UK Smaller Cos	86.84	91.83	+ 0.28	1.03
Maximum Inc	99.21	101.79	+ 0.07	6.44
Japanese	60.33	63.80	+ 0.30	
Asia Pacific	117.94	124.72	+ 0.52	0.62
American	149.39	157.98	+ 1.56	0.10

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD
0800 454 422

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cash	34.11	34.11†		5.55
UK Eq Gwth Inc	68.31	72.87†		3.00
-do- Accum	82.70	88.24†		3.00
Intl Income	307.84	327.74†	- 2.15	1.42
-do- Accum	546.66	582.00†	- 3.82	1.42
European	114.10	121.00†	- 1.22	1.35
Japan	52.13	55.21†	+ 0.40	0.19
American	107.86	114.05†	+ 0.98	1.17
Far East Tact	85.41	91.11	+ 0.39	1.33
Ethical Inc	44.26	47.34†	- 0.04	1.58
UK Blue Chip Inc	43.85	46.89	+ 0.01	3.38
UK Equity Inc	45.62	48.84†	+ 0.04	4.17
UK Global Inc	51.01	54.40	+ 0.26	1.86
Wwide Tact	88.36	94.01†	+ 0.79	1.01
Europe Tactical	79.31	84.40	+ 0.95	0.98
Technology	153.33	163.03†	+ 2.91	0.71

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
0131 225 2211

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Equity	537.90	573.70	- 0.50	2.88
American	367.50	389.50	+ 4.10	0.29
Pacific	377.20	403.20	+ 3.20	0.26
European	734.80	785.90	+ 5.60	0.76
Worldwide	104.70	111.40	+ 1.40	0.42

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Equity Inc	362.70	385.90	+ 0.10	1.87
-do- Accum	480.80	511.50	+ 0.20	1.87
UK Sir Co Eq Inc	311.00	330.90	+ 0.30	1.26
-do- Accum	384.60	409.20	- 0.40	1.26
Select Opptny Inc	94.43	101.00	+ 0.19	1.72
Income Plus Inc	91.49	97.34	- 0.05	2.96
European Inc	479.60	509.70	+ 3.00	1.01
-do- Accum	552.80	587.40	+ 3.50	1.01
Far Eastern Inc	174.70	185.90	+ 1.20	1.31
-do- Accum	203.21	216.20	+ 1.40	1.31
Japanese Inc	50.26	53.47	+ 0.49	
Nth American Inc	345.50	367.40	+ 2.40	0.44
-do- Accum	382.70	407.00	+ 2.60	0.44
Intl Growth Inc	232.70	247.60	+ 1.70	0.66
Wwide Venture Inc	98.88	105.20	+ 0.37	0.59

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT
0131 655 3724

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	487.10	514.60	+ 3.70	2.32
-do- Accum	754.40	797.10	+ 5.70	2.32
UK High Inc	236.90	250.20	- 1.60	2.25
-do- Accum	370.90	391.80	+ 2.80	2.25
Europe Inc	517.50	546.70	+ 3.70	0.58
Nth Amer Inc	334.80	353.70	+ 1.30	0.05
Global Inc	261.30	276.10	+ 1.40	.
Global Acc	282.70	298.70	+ 1.50	.
UK Spec Sits Inc	148.00	156.40	+ 0.50	1.66
South East Asia	214.60	226.70	- 9.70	0.28
Cash Trust Inc	101.70	101.70		5.36
UK Smllr Cos Inc	133.30	140.80	+ 0.10	1.81
-do- Accum	141.10	149.00	+ 0.10	1.81
Intl Bond Inc	88.56	93.13	+ 0.40	4.98

SHARP (ALBERT E)
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European	175.80	185.10	+ 2.30	0.28
Nth American	146.30	154.30	+ 1.90	...
Intl Bond & Curr	129.50	136.30†	+ 0.20	6.92
Pooled Pension (I)	251.80	270.70	+ 1.10	2.08
Smaller Cos	126.90	133.60		0.75
UK General #	183.50	193.20	+ 0.20	2.08
Far Eastern	85.60	90.11	+ 0.78	...

SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD
0171 626 6228

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Continental	98.36	103.80	+ 0.80	0.93
Global Gwth	82.88	87.83	+ 0.61	1.17
Inv Tst Port	59.85	64.47	+ 0.04	2.38
Managed	£13.92	£14.59		1.59
Pref Inc #	108.90	115.80†	+ 0.30	5.87
Smaller Cos	300.80	319.90	- 0.40	0.85
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	107.06	†		4.81
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.37	†		5.38
Corporate Inc ‡	101.33	†		5.28
Tai Pan ‡	113.35	†		..
Aztec ‡	76.61	†		
Amer Gth Fund ‡	138.56	†		..
European ‡	174.36	†		...
Global Bond ‡	85.34	†		7.38
Samurai ‡	48.29	†		
UK Growth ‡	114.71	†		2.76
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	108.80	†		2.94
Investment Trust ‡	115.30	†		3.34
The Football Fd ‡	94.28	†		
Reserve Roll Up ‡	97.18			

SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS
0171 637 5377

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	393.30	416.20	+ 0.90	.
Capital	156.90	164.90	+ 1.50	1.28
Cash	100.40	100.40†	+ 0.01	5.41
European	177.40	187.60	+ 2.80	0.44
Far Eastern	154.20	163.10	+ 2.59	.
Growth	182.60	193.20	+ 2.20	1.19
Income #	148.30	156.90	- 0.90	4.78
Magnum	164.60	174.20	+ 1.60	1.25
Smllr Secs	827.80	864.30†	+ 4.60	0.14
Thoroughbred	191.00	202.10†	+ 1.90	1.14

SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01202 435000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Comfd Prfrnce	59.24	63.32	+ 0.05	7.00
Ethical	89.04	95.22†	+ 0.24	0.84
European Growth	87.87	92.96	+ 0.58	
Income	67.51	72.20	- 0.08	3.29
Intl Growth	111.00	117.60	+ 1.10	0.08
Managed	97.00	102.80	+ 0.60	0.25
UK Growth	84.94	90.84	+ 0.11	1.30

STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS
0800 33 33 53

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	49.00	49.25	+ 0.59	1.23
Global Advtg Acc	53.57	53.64	+ 0.50	1.23
Income Advtg Inc	39.83	40.03†	+ 0.20	3.58
Income Advtg Acc	47.07	47.31	+ 0.20	3.58
UK Equity Gth Acc	113.30	120.10	+ 0.50	1.41
Premier Inc Inc	49.59	51.33†		7.34
Premier Inc Acc	54.68	56.60		7.34
Managed Acc	68.30	72.40	+ 0.60	1.38
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	44.69	47.38†	+ 0.30	4.29
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	60.57	64.21	+ 0.40	4.29
UK Smlr Cos Acc	50.70	53.75	+ 0.20	0.26
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	87.52	93.00	+ 0.80	1.81
UK Equity Gen Inc	62.19	66.08†	+ 0.50	1.81
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	31.56	33.38†		6.74
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	364.40	395.40	+ 5.70	1.51
Nth American Acc	61.31	65.15	+ 0.80	0.11
Pacific Basin	43.98	46.73	+ 0.60	0.46
European Acc	64.27	68.29	+ 1.10	0.17
Japan Acc	22.53	23.94	+ 0.50	0.01

STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD
0171 344 7000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Global A (NZS)	4.769	5.065†		1.88
US Eqts (US$)	3.804	4.033		0.74
Far Exst Eqts (yen)	258.20	274.20		
FT Europe	168.20	178.70	.	1.10
FT N Amer (US$)	2.885	3.057		..
FT Japan (yen)	185.30	195.80		
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.936	3.119		0.97

STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 226 3271

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	487.90	516.60	+ 4.30	
British #	1380.20	1460.30	+ 0.50	2.55
Emrgng Mkts	187.80	199.80	+ 1.50	0.42
Euro Smsh Co	64.94	69.16	+ 0.29	0.58
Japan	104.30	110.80	+ 0.90	.
New Pacific	437.00	465.40	+ 4.90	1.13
-do- Accum	470.20	500.80	+ 5.30	1.13
Inv Trust Acc	315.80	334.60	+ 1.20	1.15
Mngd Equity	214.60	227.00	+ 0.60	1.94
Mngd Cash	95.67	95.67	+ 0.01	5.46

SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 389

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity	1175.00	1256.00	- 1.00	1.75
North America	193.90	207.20	+ 1.40	.
Far East	156.90	167.80	+ 0.70	.
Wwide Bond	55.54	58.91†	+ 0.40	5.65
European	163.10	174.40	+ 0.90	0.19
Equity Income #	121.10	129.50	+ 0.10	4.46
Portfolio	119.70	128.00†	+ 0.30	1.20
UK Leading Cos	88.48	94.37	- 0.01	2.18
High Inc Bond	50.81	50.89	+ 0.02	6.57
Broker Trusts				
Intnl Equity	79.14	84.64	+ 0.44	.

SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD
0800 525 725

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Autumn UT	23.46	24.96	+ 0.25	0.55
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	97.25	103.46†	+ 0.03	6.96
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	104.59	111.27	+ 0.03	6.96
European	56.83	60.48	+ 0.39	0.64
High Income	37.75	40.17†		3.67
Japan	29.66	31.56	+ 0.36	0.01
Managed Assets	152.75	163.37	+ 0.26	2.54
North American	48.75	51.87	+ 0.41	0.30
Smlr Co's Inc	39.79	42.34	+ 0.12	1.93
Smlr Co's Acc	43.72	46.52	+ 0.13	1.93
UK Growth Inc	70.59	75.10		2.22
UK Growth Acc	80.65	85.80		2.22
UK Income	49.86	53.32	+ 0.01	2.99
Worldwide Gth	43.39	46.41	+ 0.14	0.21
SLC Pensions Funds				
Asian & Oceanic Ex	32.03	33.03†	+ 0.27	1.21
European Exmpt	110.64	114.07	+ 0.77	1.28
Japan Exempt	25.72	26.52	+ 0.26	0.13
US Exmpt	100.22	103.32†	+ 0.84	1.30

SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Discretionary	59.36	63.15	+ 0.34	.
Cap Protector Inc	52.84	56.21†	+ 0.01	2.80
UK Income Inc	67.64	71.96	- 0.18	3.22
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	36.32	38.44†	+ 0.01	6.69
Mngd High Yld Inc	99.91	106.29	- 0.11	4.42
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	96.96	103.15	- 0.22	3.31
UK Smaller Cos	44.65	47.50	- 0.05	1.70
Pacific Gth Port	51.11	54.37	+ 0.18	0.69

TSB UNIT TRUSTS
01264 346 794

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	319.32	337.90	+ 2.50	
-do- Accum	351.71	372.18	+ 2.76	
Brit Growth	131.86	139.53†	+ 0.30	1.63
-do- Accum	166.13	175.80†	+ 0.38	1.63
European	139.91	148.05	+ 0.93	0.01
-do- Accum	149.43	158.13	+ 0.99	0.01
Extra Income #	227.17	240.39	+ 0.21	4.58
-do- Accum #	424.47	449.17	+ 0.40	4.56
Smaller Cos	97.77	103.46†	+ 0.04	0.75
-do- Accum	112.37	118.91†	+ 0.05	0.75
General	388.10	410.69	+ 0.75	1.81
-do- Accum	836.52	885.21	+ 1.62	1.81
Premier Income	51.36	53.50†	+ 0.02	6.67
-do- Accum	133.19	138.74†	+ 0.05	6.67
Income #	413.56	437.63	+ 0.54	3.55
-do- Accum #	971.75	£10.28	+ 1.26	3.55
Pacific	382.35	404.51	+ 1.82	0.50
-do- Accum	401.66	425.04	+ 1.92	0.50
International	643.63	681.09†	- 3.98	0.14
-do- Accum	850.61	900.11†	+ 5.25	0.14
Nat Resources	167.07	176.80†	+ 1.31	0.51
Select Opps	140.65	148.84†	+ 0.32	0.92
-do- Accum	186.11	196.95†	+ 0.42	0.92
Environmental Inv	90.37	95.63	+ 0.50	0.76
Selector	80.25	84.92†	+ 0.17	1.42
-do- Accum	94.27	99.76†	+ 0.21	1.42
High Income #	75.20	79.58	+ 0.08	4.48
-do- Accum #	104.35	110.43	+ 0.11	4.48
Intl Income	61.97	65.57†	+ 0.40	4.64
-do- Accum	84.20	89.10†	+ 0.55	4.64
Selector Income	69.72	73.78†	+ 0.13	4.32
-do- Accum	90.20	95.45†	+ 0.17	4.32

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED
0181 667 1018

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	452.67	476.50†	+ 1.00	2.44
European	85.13	89.14	+ 0.44	1.38

TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 469 4000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Glob Growth Inc	251.75	266.40	- 0.02	2.39
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Tiger	295.52	309.44†	+ 2.36	
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UK Growth	736.55	771.25	- 1.42	0.90
UK High Yield #	127.43	133.43†	- 0.05	5.20
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European	84.07	89.44	+ 0.50	1.23
Nth American	89.92	95.66	+ 0.88	0.11
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Money	73.24	73.24	+ 0.01	4.74
Fixed Interest #	81.99	87.22	- 0.03	7.85
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Pens Growth	110.04	110.04		
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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Australasian Gold	27.13	28.56	+ 0.41	...
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Gilt Income	51.66	52.46†		8.20
Gilt Growth	79.31	80.54	+ 0.04	
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UK Stockmarket	112.30	119.30	+ 0.10	2.35
Corporate Bd Inc	48.79	48.87	- 0.10	6.52
Do Accum	51.61	51.78	- 0.11	6.52

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend, ‡ Middle price; .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge

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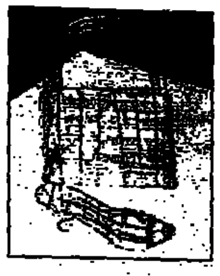


■ MUSEUMS

Ordinary objects in extraordinary materials, as the Science Museum launches a new gallery

■ THEATRE 1

Bailegangaire augurs well for the Royal Court's new Irish discovery, Tom Murphy

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

Rare Tennessee Williams proves to be full of autobiographical interest in Hammersmith

■ THEATRE 3

Tom Driberg reincarnate? Michael Gambon gives a terrific performance as the dissolute MP

The Science Museum's new £4 million gallery will show you exactly what materialism means. **Nigel Hawkes** reports

Make what you will of it

Materials maketh man, or so the prehistorians preach. Stone, bronze and iron all gave their names to periods of history. Today the range of materials available to engineers and designers is so enormous that most of us would be hard-pressed to identify more than a handful of them.

At the Science Museum in South Kensington, the importance of materials is about to be recognised in a new gallery. Amid the dust and disorder of contractors striving to complete the job by the opening date of May 14, it is possible to see that a big investment — £4.5 million over the next ten years — is going to produce something good.

The old gallery was called Iron and Steel, Glass and Plastics. It's unlikely that anyone will remember it especially well, because it did not include any of those knockout items that stick in the mind. The new Challenge of Materials Gallery has set out quite deliberately to remedy the defect, with a stunning bridge made of glass and supported by fine steel wires which runs across the gallery 30 feet above the ground.

"Not everyone will want to go over it, and that's partly the point," says Heather Mayfield, project leader for the new gallery. "People look back on their visits to the museum and remember the really amazing things. We think this is going to be one of them."

Designed by bridge architect Chris Wilkinson and structural engineer Bryn Bird, the bridge is the lightest possible structure to span the distance. It floats across the void, hanging from steel strands as fine as piano wire. At some risk of gilding the lily, these strands, the glass deck and the handrail are linked to a computer which will turn the various stresses experienced by the bridge into sounds. The bridge will act, says the museum, like a huge musical instrument, the precise sounds depending on who is crossing it at the time.

The Times has many uses, as Chohee Lee's shoe shows

The rest of the gallery is built around four themes: what materials are, how they are selected, how they are made, and how they are recycled. No modern gallery would be complete without plenty of "hands on" exhibits, and here they will include a demonstration at the atomic scale of how salt melts and vaporises when heated, and a display that turns from solid into liquid and then gas, depending on how hard you turn the handle.

Those who prefer glass cases full of interesting objects will not be neglected. The gallery includes three huge "walk-through" cases, each with about 300 objects from the museum's collection. "These could be examples of the first time a material was used, unique objects, or things associated with somebody significant," explains Mayfield.

Wackier items to be found elsewhere include cardboard chairs, a Bakelite coffin, a wedding dress woven from steel wire, a stainless steel bomber jacket and a morning gown created by Vivienne Westwood from Axminster carpet. Students at Cordwainer's College in Hackney have produced some exotic shoes, made from unexpected materials. Not too many hints here of the pedagogic style of the old gallery, but the idea is to overturn preconceptions by showing familiar objects made from something strange.

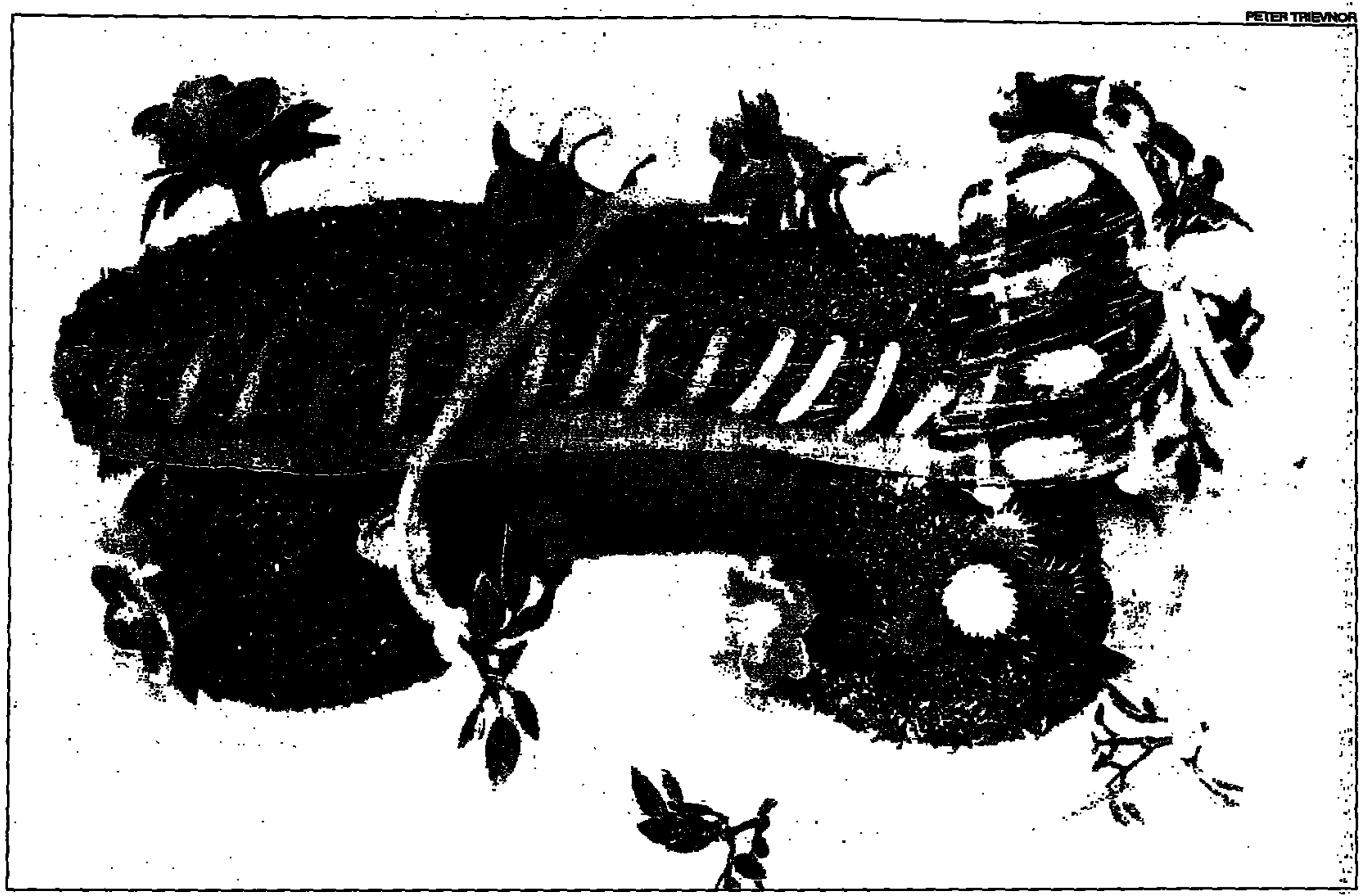
Challenge of Materials is innovative in another way, too. "We were determined that the gallery wouldn't look great on opening day, but then gradually get out of date," Mayfield says. "So the sponsors have provided the money over ten years. That means the core displays will change every 18 months, and we have three smaller cases that will be changed every six months."

Karen Davies, education adviser for the gallery, says that the aim has been to produce something that can appeal both to the very young and to people with a professional interest in materials science. At several places around the gallery keyboards will allow access to a database with additional information.

Hanging from the ceiling is a steel-framed house, a strong hint that the principal sponsor of the gallery is the British steel industry. Money has also come from ICI, the Aluminium Federation and Courtaulds. That materials have an artistic as well as an engineering function is shown by a suspended steel fibre sculpture by the Japanese artist, Kyoko Kumai.

On paper, at least, the design of the gallery strikes a nice balance between the need to attract an audience and the more traditional museum functions of scholarship and display. Teachers, who now have to include a lot of materials science as part of the national curriculum, are already showing considerable interest. The science of materials has been transformed in the past 30 years, and it looks as if the Science Museum will at last have a gallery that does it justice.

PETER TREVNOR



Cordwainer's College students have produced wacky footwear for the Science Museum's new Gallery: this Astroturf shoe is by Lucia Simon

Hot stuff on the road from Blackpool pier

SECOND OPINION: The play *Tom and Clem* brings back memories for **Bernard Levin**

Tom and Clem — Stephen Churchett's first full-size play — turns on a somewhat strange story. We have to throw back as far as 1945, when the war was only just over; and when I looked round the audience at the Aldwych, I found a considerable number of people who plainly had no idea who Clement Attlee was. And while at least there were no people who did not know who Winston Churchill was, there were many who had no idea of the famous speech:

"My friends, I must tell you that a Socialist policy is abhorrent to British ideas of freedom... Socialism in its essence is an attack not only upon British enterprise, but upon the right of an ordinary man or woman to breathe freely without having a harsh, clumsy, tyrannical hand clapped across their mouth and nostrils... a Socialist government would have to fall back on some kind of Gestapo..."

Hot stuff, eh? Blair versus Major is nothing to those words and claims.

But now I must turn to another and more exciting tale, and my age comes into the story. Hands up, those who knew who Tom Driberg was? Well, I was one; and before I say anything at all, I must point out that Tom Driberg's greatest pleasure was — I am sorry, but I have to use the word — buggery. Yes, I knew Driberg, but I did not follow his pleasure (which anyway was at that time a serious criminal action). He did indeed try it on — once we both went for a stroll on the sand at Blackpool — but I made it plain that I was not in that league, and he didn't get cross, indeed his friendship grew.

But he took incredible dangers; once he told me that he had been practising his pleasure in a public lavatory when two policemen appeared and took him up. He kept his cool, and very gradually he made the two policemen believe that he would pull down the entire Churchill world if he was arrested; the two coppers believed him and they left.

But where was Clement Attlee? Well, I must say that I have never seen a player in so exact a part when Alec McCowen took the stage as Attlee. I truly gasped, and for a moment thought that Attlee had come down from heaven — the bald head, the pipe, the very way of his talking. And then Michael Gambon took his part, as Driberg. We always expect brilliant work from Gambon, and we always get it. And we did, because Driberg was not only the man who seduced any other person who came near him, but there was another side to him. After all, he was a journalist, and a very fine one. He covered the Spanish Civil War, and in Britain he raged at the dreadful lives of the miners.

The play has not immediately been packed, and there has been a good deal of sniffing; I don't know whether it will live. It should. Perhaps I liked it because of my memories of Driberg. After all, he did get into the House of Lords — and oh, how I would have loved to see him draped with the ermine and trying, impossibly, to keep a straight face.

THEATRE: Tom Murphy's powerful Irish writing; Tennessee Williams's play within a play

Life, the universe and everything

Bailegangaire
Ambassadors

THIS is the first of several plays by Tom Murphy that the Royal Court is bringing to the West End this year. And what does it bode for a season presumably designed to stop Londoners scratching their heads and muttering "Tom who?", and start filing him alongside Brian Friel in the section of their brainboxes devoted to contemporary Irish dramatists? At the end of the first act, I wasn't sure. Long before the end of the second, I knew the omens were excellent.

Act I bears a strong resemblance to *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, which the Court staged last year, yet lacks that play's focus, sharpness and humour.

This time it is a granddaughter, not a daughter, who is forced to look after a difficult, demanding old crone, but her nerves are just as frazzled and her days as lonely as those of the protagonist of Martin McDonagh's black comedy. In this rural outback two sets of passing headlights within an hour count as "a lot of activity". For poor, put-upon Mary the only release from Mommo's endless jabbering is the odd visit by her married sister Dolly, with whom her relationship is decidedly edgy.

Rosaleen Linehan's Mommo, slumped balefully in her bed, recognises Ruth McCabe's Dolly occasionally but Brid Brennan's Mary not at all. Moreover, she spends her waking hours obsessively repeating an old, incomplete story that comes close to matching the outpourings of Beckett's crazed derelicts for incoherence. They concern the day her late husband stopped in a Bailegangaire pub after a bad day at the market. There he challenged a large, boisterous man — "the size and breadth of him, you'd have to step into the verge to give him sufficient right of way" — to a laughing contest. But for all Murphy's rich writing, do we care?

Yes, increasingly we do. As Act II approaches, Murphy's careful preparation brings its rewards. Everywhere the emotional stakes increase, higher and higher. The sisters talk of killing their grandmother. McCabe goes near-nuclear with rage at the absentee husband who brutalises her on his trips home. And Brennan at last gets Mommo to finish what turns out to be a fascinating, terrible story. It tells how Bailegangaire became known as "the place of no laughter" after a contest in which the source of hilarity becomes death, grief and unending pain.

Rosaleen Linehan (Mommo) and Brid Brennan (Mary)

By the end James Macdonald's superb cast have done more than prove that Murphy can write powerfully about personal disasters. They have lifted a family drama into a state-of-Ireland play, and that into something akin to a state-of-the-universe play. Even Friel might have shied from the line about God despairing of Man, yet deciding to let him live "to see what transpires". With Murphy, the sentiment strikes both the mind and the heart.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Players in pain

Out Cry
Lyric, Hammersmith

TENNESSEE Williams made one of the two characters in this play, which he first titled *The Two Character Play*, cry out: "We can't turn back to children in public view!" But he himself longed to be able to exorcise demons and recapture bliss by so doing, and the works in which he tried to bring surrogates of his sister and his young self to life on the stage became of special importance to him.

When he wrote the various versions of this play the wonder is that he could write at all, having become so dependent on ferocious cocktails of drugs and alcohol. Remarkably, a narrative line is discernible. Felice, an actor/playwright, and his actress sister Clare arrive in some theatre at the back of beyond to give a performance of *Out Cry*.

The play within the play, and the outer play too, will lead up to a re-enactment of the Inexplicable Accident that orphaned them, when Daddy (how could he!) shot Mother in the bathroom and then himself while staring out of a window.

When this scene eventually arrives the tension is hair-raising. Jason Merrells stands at a window, trembling in anticipation, while a terrified Sara Stewart levels a gun at his bare back. Then the positions are reversed. Bodies sweat, hands shake, faces strain. Thrilling stuff.

Oh, but a wandering pilgrimage takes us there. We first see Clare as a raucous drug-dependent actress, aggressively resisting her apparently Svengali-like brother. They explore the cluttered stage, alter the positions of doors and massed sunflowers. Stewart ventures winsome little smiles when our presence is discovered, and both give elaborately detailed performances, vigorous, uninhibited — really, there's much interest to be found in that — and Timothy Walker's direction, for Cheek by Jowl, allows us to see the pain and panic in these two disorientated creatures.

Williams provides the occasional tangy phrase, and some neat ideas like the C sharp Clare thumps out on the piano whenever she wants to cut a scene, but despite such felicities (and the man's name, ironically, means happy) the way Williams chooses to unravel his incestuous lovers fails, by being overemphatic and yet crucially wispy.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft bearded giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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THE DEBUT ALBUM OUT NOW

■ POP 1

Ancient Egypt feels the full force of the Wallinger effect on World Party's new album . . .

■ POP 2

. . . while Paddy McAloon, muse to the stars, discovers God on Prefab Sprout's latest disc

THE TI ARTS POP

■ POP 3

From Hungary to *The English Patient*: Márta Sebestyén has voice, will travel . . .

■ POP 4

. . . and another great pair of vocal cords, Peggy Lee, comes up trumps in a blues collection

Look on my work, ye mighty, and don't despair

Soon, Karl Wallinger will unleash his latest upbeat manifesto on behalf of his World Party. **Paul Sexton** acts as spin doctor

If a pessimist is just a well-informed optimist, then perhaps Karl Wallinger is better off wearing his rose-tinted specs. Ever since he set out his own ragged-trousered manifesto on World Party's debut album, *Private Revolution*, in 1986, Wallinger's standpoint has been unashamedly upbeat. Of course, in that quixotic era of Live Aid and the like, he wasn't the only one. "If you want a revolution, baby, there is nothing like your own," he sang, delivering the message in the year's most attractive wrapping — brightly patterned psychedelic pop with a big red bow made of Beatles, Beach Boys and Prince trimmings.

The idealism of that generation may have long since disappeared in a nasty bout of optimism fatigue, but a musical lifetime later Wallinger is preparing for the release of his fourth World Party album, *Egyptology*, with the same glass-is-half-full approach. And this is no blind faith: fully aware of the absurdities of modern life, he retains the missionary zeal of a one-man-band trying to make music that inspires.

"There's no reason not to feel that way," he says at Seaview Studios, the boffin's den in North London where he has spent year upon years plotting, pottering and meddling with each World Party release. And the more ridiculous life gets, the better service he's providing.

"You have some terrible visions of how it could go," he says. "It looks like the world's going to be a division of Sony, and bank clerks are going to be cloned, and Marks & Spencer is eventually going to be responsible for the whole world's food. Cows will go into one end of a huge shed in Siberia and come out as chicken tikka.

"But apart from that, you start getting into the groove of life and thinking it's always going to be bonkers, and it's always going to have a chance and it's never going to be perfect. I enjoy the story of Man. It's one of my favourite soaps."

Since the last World Party album, 1993's *Bang!*, was beaten to No 1 only by R.E.M.'s *Automatic for the People*, Wallinger has fiddled at Seaview while grunge and Britpop have burnt. He also fitted in a gig as musical director for the soundtrack of the romantic comedy movie *Reality Bites*, starring Winona Ryder.

But his main musical squeeze has been *Egyptology*, from which the upcoming single *Beautiful Dream* is now receiving extensive airplay on a radio near you. Along with such grabbers as *It is Time* and *Call Me Up* and the romantic *She's the One*, the album contains a more shadowy piece called *Curse of the Mummy's Tomb*. But have no fear, we are not dealing here with the dread phrase "concept album".

> ‘I enjoy the story of Man. It's one of my favourite soaps’

"No, it was more a man in search of a name for his album," says Wallinger. "I hit on it, and now it's like [assumes nerdy voice] 'I joined the AA, and now I notice the stickers on the back of everyone's cars'. You notice how much of this civilisation that no longer exists is present all the time. If the Egyptians wanted to achieve immortality, they did it. One of the greatest press jobs ever: 'Press campaign of *all* existence, the award goes to . . . the god Osiris'."

Wallinger continues his B-side homage to the Beatles on the *Beautiful Dream* CD single, which will include painstaking versions of *Penny Lane* and John Lennon's *#9 Dream*. "You just fancy it," he says. "Like, 'What shall I do now? I know, I'll spend three months doing *Penny Lane*'. I've wanted to do a version of that since I was a kid."

Such are the perks of the musician with his own studio. But such freedom can be dangerous as well as luxurious. "It's a double-edged sword," he says. "You've got real freedom, so you've also got the freedom to make errors.

"It's good to have a bit of pressure, and certainly everybody I've been inspired by has worked under pressure. My starting place for recording, mentally, is the Beatles' *Revolution 9*, and it gets more organised from there."

As a tally of four albums in 11 years suggests, Wallinger's record label, Chrysalis, cuts him plenty of creative slack. Now, though, "it's table-thumping time", he says. "The season's started. When I began this record, I thought I'd turn it around in a short space of time, and I ended up taking the longest I've ever taken. One thing led to another. I was going to try to have something that seemed like a joined-up career, but it turned into perforations again."

For all his innate positiveness, Wallinger has moments of self-doubt, especially, he says, when he turns on MTV and catches the latest piece of lame-brained rap posturing. "I worry sometimes that music's becoming something that's made by people who can't be bothered and listened to by people who can't be bothered. I was worrying the other day about becoming old and decrepit, then I thought 'Don't worry about it, songs have been around for centuries', and I felt a lot better.

"Sometimes you get led into this belief that songs have only been around since the 1960s, and they're now going out of date. But then you remember people used to sit around Egyptian campfires and sing songs to the stars."

● Beautiful Dream *is released by Chrysalis on May 27.* Egyptology *follows on June 16*

Today a greasy spoon, tomorrow the World Party: Karl Wallinger lays his plans for global optimism

Mix and match

IT'S not often you find Peggy Lee rubbing shoulders with accordion player Boozoo Chavis, or Nat "King" Cole sharing the spotlight with harmonica star Shakey Jake. But all four feature in the latest batch of CDs in the Capitol Blues Collection. Lee, in a rocking mood with *Yeah Yeah Yeah*, slots in nicely to a double CD called **Jumpin' Like Mad: Cool Cats and Hip Chicks** (Capitol 852051 2), a lovingly compiled look at the jump blues of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Other highlights include Nellie Lutcher's *Fine Brown Frame* and *Hypin' Woman Blues* by T-Bone Walker. The less raucous side of the same era is reflected in the three-CD set **The Cocktail Combos** (852042 2), which includes Charles Brown, Floyd Dixon and a young Cole gently crooning his way along *Route 66*.

BLUES ALBUMS

Going from that to the tracks on **Louisiana Swamp Blues** (852046 2) could be harmful to those of a nervous disposition. It's not known which, if any, of the participants on *Paper In My Shoe* by the Boozoo Chavis Band were sober when this gloriously incoherent zydeco classic was cut back in the 1950s.

Kansas City Blues (852047 2) leans heavily on the work of singer Julia Lee, pianist Jay McShann and the underrated blues shouter Walter Brown. Meanwhile a double CD, **Chicago Blues Masters Vol 3** (836288 2), has 1960s and 1970s recordings by three harp maestros, George "Harmonica" Smith, James Cotton and Shakey Jake.

Another company busy mining the vaults is Sequel which, not content with issuing treasures from the Atlantic label such as **The Clovers** (Sequel RSACD 857), **The Coasters** (RSACD 869) and **Lavern Baker** (RSACD 910) has now started raiding the King label. First up are keyboards star Sonny Thompson's **Jam Sonny Jam** (NEMCD 900), and a set of vocal group tracks under the attractive title **Great Googa Mooga** (NEMCD 907).

JOHN CLARKE

Paddy McAloon once trained to be a priest. Now he's a Prefab Sprout, but he still has his faith

In God's Prefab are many mansions

In a Merchant Ivory film, Paddy McAloon would be the gentle, cardigan-wearing priest who urges two shy lovers to make that twilight tryst. In the swishy musicals of the 1930s, he would be the book-loving millionaire who funds the off-Broadway show and comes up with the hit song at the last minute, when the original composer accidentally breaks his brain in a golfing incident. He wouldn't get the girl, though — the supporting cast never manages to get the girl.

And as it is in the films, so it is in the music world — McAloon will never get the girl, or a No 1 album. Only the players in lead roles get those, and to be a lead you have to be a little bit mad: a little bit unresolved, a little bit TV-out-of-the-window-because-I-can't-find-the-words.

McAloon has never had a problem with words, and coincidentally has never had a problem with irate porters discovering shattered Sony flatscreens in the carpark. Having trained between the ages of 11 and 18 to be a priest, written lines like "Hi, this is God here/Talking to me used to be a simple affair/Moses only had to see a burning bush and he'd pull up a chair", and built his studio, Andromeda Heights, as an annexe to the house in which he was brought up, McAloon is rock's exemplary Gentlemanly Scholar of Love. And Scholars of Love don't tour.

"Ugh, no," he says, alternately sprawling and pulling himself upright, as if being relaxed would be a little impolite. "I'd go mad, ha ha, if I had to do all that 'be in the lobby at 9am' stuff. You do the touring when you're young and you want to drink and you're desperate to prove yourself. We did it to get an album deal and we've got one now. So I don't really find it necessary to go out and do something that I know would make me miserable."

McAloon's career with his band Prefab Sprout has been a singular one. Beginning in 1984 with the album *Swoon*, with its jazz inflections, complicated syncopation, hurtling ambition and bizarre time shifts, he followed with a couple of underground classic LPs before Jimmy Nail roped him in to write for his *Crocodile Shoes* album. Then Cher came knocking at the McAloon front door, cutting his nine-minute epic *The Gunman* down to four and yodelling all the way through it.

While Cher and Nail were out singing his songs, McAloon started stockpiling ideas. In the seven years following the 1990 God/Sondheim/Elvis concept album *Jordan: The Comeback* he wrote five others, gave them all names — *The Atomic Hymn Book, Let's Change the World with Music, The History of the World, Zorro the Fox* and *Total Snow* — and left them in a drawer, waiting for the right arrangers and impresarios to fund their dramatic scope.

Then the bills started mounting up, and McAloon decided to release *Andromeda Heights*, a pop album about life, death, love and, occasionally, God. "It's not something that white artists tackle very often, spirituality and Him." McAloon lifts his eyes towards the ceiling. "I'm very aware that people think you're a religious nutter if you mention Him. Most of my God songs are on *The Atomic Hymn Book*, but I think he's crept into a few of the things on *Andromeda Heights*."

CAITLIN MORAN

It's difficult to describe quite how otherworldly *Andromeda Heights* is. Tucked away in a village outside Newcastle, smoking cigars and raising his child, McAloon has veered off on a blissful right-angle to the current music scene. Everything sounds like a sunset as seen from an aircraft: all dreamlike Arcadia, voluptuous towers of cloud and stars sprinkled like salt on the velvet of the sky. The verses of *Life's a Miracle*, for example, put a bittersweet lump in the throat, which the chorus effortlessly converts into heaving sobs.

"Well, it's about how we're all going to die, so we shouldn't waste a second," McAloon says. "I'm the king of futile idealism, and it horrifies me that people waste their lives mulling over the past, or worrying about the future. You just have to *charge* into life and get on with it. But make sure you don't knock anyone over while you're doing it."

● *The single,* Prisoner of the Past, *is released by Columbia on Monday.* Andromeda Heights *follows on May 5*

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Additional shows due to public demand:

September 1 Sold Out /20/21 London Royal Albert Hall, 23 Newcastle Arena

24 Glasgow SECC, 26 Sheffield Arena, 27 Manchester NYNEX Arena

Hungarian, so she's used to rhapsodies

Márta Sebestyén is one of the biggest celebrities in Hungary, a winner of the Liszt prize and a television personality, with a voice quite unlike anything you have heard before. Suddenly she is everywhere, in demand with film directors and concert audiences. In addition to being the voice heard over the opening credits of *The English Patient*, she is also to be heard in Hal Hartley's new film, *Flirt*, and on Sunday she plays to a sold-out audience at the Barbican.

So how did a singer of Hungarian folk song become Hollywood's favourite voice-over? "We were playing in California last year when this man came backstage and said he had been trying to catch up with me to ask if he could use my voice in his film," she says. "It was Anthony Minghella, the director of *The English Patient*. Someone had given him one of my records and he said 'this is the music I need for my movie'."

Sebestyén had recorded the song he wanted, *Szerelem Szerelem*, while she was going through a difficult divorce. "A singer's life, married to a musician — it could not work. I thought it miraculous that Anthony recognised my sorrow and pain through a recording. Although I sing it in Hungarian the message of the song can reach any heart."

Indeed, the power, beauty and emotional depth of Sebestyén's voice allow her, as one reviewer put it, to "make folk music for people who didn't even know they liked such things". There is also a strong Arabic influence in her songs that makes Kristin Scott Thomas's cultural confusion in the film perfectly credible. "You can hear that oriental ornamentation all over the Balkans, and Hungary is the last outpost of that. The Ottoman empire reached us and left its mark."

> Who sang so beautifully in *The English Patient*? She plays London on Sunday

The music of Transylvania (formerly a Hungarian province but now part of Romania) will always remain her first love. "It was very isolated, very poor and that helped them keep their traditions." On her most recent album, *Kismet*, she also tackled Bulgarian, Bosnian and even Irish songs. "Wherever I go I can communicate. Words can be misunderstood, but never music." She tells a story about haggling for a carpet in Tunisia, where part of the price involved her singing. "It is easy to pay for something with dirty dollars, but it is a cultural exchange if you pay with a song."

Her musical upbringing started literally in the womb. Her mother was an ethnomusicologist and studied under Zoltan Kodály, the great Hungarian composer. "When she got pregnant Kodály told her that musical education should begin before birth. So I was listening to the great master when I was inside my mother's body, absorbing music."

Sebestyén studied at music schools in Budapest and, by the time she was in her teens, was part of the "dance house movement", a student-based protest at the communists' stultification of culture. "It was a folk music revival, young people doing the old folk dances, not in that costumed, choreographed way the regime liked, but with freedom. The authorities couldn't control it, so they decided it was dangerous."

Márta Sebestyén: "Wherever I go I can communicate"

By 1980 she was singing with Hungary's leading folk group Muzsikas, with whom she still performs. As Hungary broke free of communism, opportunities to tour abroad opened up and Sebestyén has played to full houses all over Europe and America, Japan and Australia. There have been eight albums, and she has appeared on recordings with Peter Gabriel and Towering Inferno as well as on the hit ambient album, *Deep Forest*.

She defends her forays into the pop world. "If you listen I am still singing the same," she says. "I feel sorry for people who aren't crazy about traditional music, but I can pass the culture to them through something else. I will work with anyone who can use me for a good purpose."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● *Márta Sebestyén is at the Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) on Sunday.* The Best of Marta Sebestyén — The Voice Of The English Patient *is released by Hannibal Records*

■ POP 5

"Half of my songs are me doing therapy with myself," admits Paul McCartney

■ POP 6

Former *EastEnders* star Michelle Gayle calls her new album *Sensational*, but will anyone else?

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 7

The best of Jimi Hendrix, and some dross as well, is repackaged as a double-album

■ POP 8

Punk with a 1990s spin, but little else to recommend it, comes from Gold Blade

Paul McCartney tells **Des Burkinshaw** why promoting his new solo album is the last thing on his mind

Fab? If you say so, pop-pickers

It has been an exciting couple of years for Paul McCartney. First, one of his old groups sold 40 million copies of the three double albums in their *Anthologies* series, making them the biggest sellers of the year in America. Bigger, in fact, than Alanis Morissette, Oasis and R.E.M. combined. But then, the Beatles have always been something of a special case. Then there was the knighthood, and now there is his latest solo album, *Flaming Pie*.

Not that he is exactly crowing about it. In fact, his record company is a bit worried about the lack of promotional effort McCartney is putting into telling the world that he, the world's most successful writer of pop songs ever, has another bit of product on the way. He has agreed to just a handful of television, radio and press interviews. There will be no tour to back it up. And, frankly, Fab Macca doesn't give a damn.

> "I really won't be frantic if it isn't a success"

"I started to ask myself what's it all been worth — the Beatles, the money and fame — if at some point I can't go 'Now can I have a good time?' " McCartney says. "It's do or die. It would be great if *Flaming Pie* is a success, but I really won't be frantic if it isn't. If I keep on going like some manic preacher for the rest of my life, it just seems so pointless."

It has been four years since his last pop album, *Off the Ground*, and those diehard McCartney fans who share his view that he "got a bum rap" in comparison with the deification of John Lennon will be hoping that *Flaming Pie* will be the great McCartney album for which they have been waiting ever since the Beatles broke up.

The good news is that *Flaming Pie*, written and recorded during the two-year *Anthology* project, is his strongest solo work for years. Oddly, the weakest track, *Young Boy*, has been chosen as the lead-off single in this country. That error aside, McCartney has made an album on a par with solo career high spots such as *Band on the Run*, *Tug of War* and *McCartney*, with a little help from friends old — Ringo Starr, George Martin — and newer — Steve Miller, Jeff Lynne.

Paul McCartney strikes his best Eddie Cochran pose for the photographer. "That's nice, dear," says the snapper, Linda McCartney

That the quality of the songwriting has shifted up a gear or two should not perhaps be surprising, considering the turmoil of his life these past four years. Besides the return of the Beatles and the knighthood ("It would have been rude to turn it down"), there have been record-breaking world tours, the premiere of the *Liverpool Oratorio*, his first major classical work, and the writing of his second, *Standing Stone* (due to be performed for the first time at the Albert Hall in October). Most traumatic of all, he has supported his wife Linda through her fight against breast cancer.

All this has left McCartney more introspective than before. The musical result is an album streaked with melancholy. He tentatively agrees with the assessment. "Yes, Linda's not been well the past year or so, although she's doing very well now," he says. "It's very difficult when you get that kind of situation in your life. I'm sensitive enough not to repress it all the time, and that helps you to deal with it."

Dropping his guard a little further, McCartney confesses that his music has stopped him "going round the bend". "Music has always been a consolation for me," he says. "When you get the teenage blues, the great remedy is to write a song. I wrote *Ebony and Ivory* after a little marital tiff with Linda. It was like 'why can't we get it together — our piano can'."

So a fly on the wall at home might catch him huddled over the grand piano having a good cry? "Yes. It's an underrated aspect of songwriting. If you asked a lot of songwriters you'd find that what happens is that they have a bad day so they skulk off to hide from everyone. Instead of lying on a psychiatrist's couch they talk to themselves in a song.

"I do that all the time. Half of my songs are very much me doing therapy with myself, and half of them I'm just writing about Desmond and Molly Jones."

The new album contains *Little Willow*, one of McCartney's most beautiful ballads since *Waterfalls*, written for the children of a close friend who died. "The morning I heard the news I couldn't think of anything else, so I wrote this in the hope that I could somehow convey how much I thought of her. It's certainly heartfelt."

Thirty-five years after *Love Me Do*, the long shadow of the Beatles still dominates *Flaming Pie*. Even the title refers to a story Lennon once wrote about a man on a flaming pie who came to him in a dream and said: "From this day on, you are Beatles with an A."

"Working on the *Anthology* reminded me of the Beatles' standards," McCartney says. "If you run down the tracks on a Beatles album, they're all good little songs. So I thought I'd make an album where there wouldn't be a stiff on the track list — as far as I was concerned, anyway."

McCartney wrong-foots his critics by partially suggesting they were right to knock some of his early solo work. "It was all post-Beatles stuff, and the Beatles were possibly the hardest act of all to follow. So Linda and I fell in with everyone else's opinion of it — which was that it was not as good as the Beatles, therefore it was no good at all. I hated a lot of songs from that period."

> "I hated a lot of songs from my early solo period"

But his son James, who plays guitar on the new album, recently jogged his memory by digging out some Wings albums, to hear what the old man had been up to in the 1970s. "I'd forgotten a lot of it and it's really not as bad as I thought it was," McCartney says. "But I feel quite good because although it was put down, it doesn't go away. For anyone who does care to look at it, there's a hell of a lot to discover from that period."

His day may yet come. Part of his problem may have been to have had too wide a scope. With works as varied as *Yesterday*, the *Liverpool Oratorio*, *Helter Skelter* and *Mary Had a Little Lamb* under his belt, it is perhaps no surprise that he is misunderstood.

"Possibly. But not everyone is going to study you that hard. They go on first impressions. So if they see me singing *Yesterday* they go: 'He's a balladeer'. But that's because there never was a video of me singing *Helter Skelter*."

● *Flaming Pie is released by Parlophone on May 12*

Legends brought to life

JAZZ ALBUMS

SIDNEY BECHET
Great Original Performances 1924 to 1943
(CDS Records RPCD 632)

ISSUED to celebrate the centenary of the great New Orleans clarinet/soprano player's birth, this meticulously annotated 24-track compilation contains 70 minutes of Sidney Bechet's best playing. His classic collaborations with trumpeter Tommy Ladnier, the more democratic Noble Sissle's Swingsters sessions in the late 1930s, and the early 1940s sides with a stellar reconstituted Feetwarmers band form the meat of the album, but there are also fascinating glimpses of less familiar Bechet fare.

A roadhouse version of *One o'clock Jump*, tellingly juxtaposed with its studio successor, a unique outing on sarrusophone backing singer Eva Taylor and a cut from Bechet's 1941 one-man-band overdubbed session are all featured.

But overall it is Bechet's unrivalled ability to soar out of the ensembles, his playing equal parts grace and fire, that continues to justify his legendary status.

JIMMIE NOONE
The Apex of New Orleans Jazz
(ASV CD AJA 5235)

BORN near New Orleans, and with an early career fully matching Bechet's, clarinettist Jimmie Noone might easily have been one of the seminal figures of early jazz. Instead, he is highly respected but not legendary, and this 74-minute compilation — comprising material from Noone's first 1923 session with drummer Ollie Powers, through his trademark recordings with his celebrated Apex Club Orchestra, to his revivalist Kid Ory-led recordings just before his premature death in California in 1944 — demonstrates why.

An elegant, restrained player with a round, full tone that blended sweetly with his most sympathetic frontline partner, alto player Joe Poston, Noone was handicapped for most of his career by mediocre sidemen playing somewhat pedestrian arrangements. Nevertheless, his neatly incisive but mellifluous playing is one of the great joys of interwar jazz.

CHRIS PARKER

Low pressure arias bring Gayle warning

POP ALBUMS: **David Sinclair** on the sleekly sterile soul songstress stylings of the new-look Michelle Gayle

MICHELLE GAYLE
Sensational
(1st Avenue/RCA 74321419322 £13.99)

FROM soap star to soul singer is a career path fraught with many pitfalls. Michelle Gayle, once Hattie Tavernier in *EastEnders*, has avoided most of them, but is still not quite where she would like to be with her optimistically titled second album, *Sensational*.

Granted, she has subtly repositioned herself in the marketplace. With its smouldering cover portrait and the intimate whispered introduction to the opening ballad, *Fly Away*, the album oozes mature, intimate, soulful vibes. And there is an impressive variety of sounds and styles on offer, from the Joan Armatrading-influenced acoustic pop of the two hit singles *Do You Know* and *Sensational*, to the rootsy folk-blues of *Fakin' It*, the high point of the album.

But too few of the songs seem to come from the heart. A routine 1970s funk groove called *Working Overtime* and the drifting ballad *Yesterday* (how can anyone give a new song such a conspicuously second-hand title?) are typical of her appealing but undemanding approach, while lyrics such as "Good times, yes they, come and go/I know that's just a part of life," fall some way short of revealing any profound truth.

JIMI HENDRIX
First Rays of the New Rising Sun
(Experience Hendrix/MCA MCD 11599 £9.99)

UNLIKE the surviving members of the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix is not around to give his blessing or otherwise to the tinkering with his back catalogue that has gone on almost continuously during the 27 years since his death. But, as with virtually every other "new" posthumous permutation of his songs, *First Rays of the New Rising Sun* would be redundant were the man still performing today.

This one takes all the tracks from his essential 1971 album *The Cry of Love*, and jumbles them up with the more presentable numbers from the flawed *Rainbow Bridge* (1971) and the woefully substandard *War Heroes* (1972) to create "a historically accurate recreation of the double album Hendrix was working on at the time of his death".

The result is a carefully annotated mixture of the marvellous (*Freedom*, *Hey Baby*, *Angel*) and the mediocre (*Izabella*, *Earth Blues*, *Beginnings*) which, accurate or not, certainly rewrites that chunk of Hendrix's history in a more elegantly contained way than the original albums did.

Also released this week are new editions of the core albums of Hendrix's repertoire, including *Are You Experienced* (complete with an additional six singles and B-sides), *Axis: Bold as Love* and *Electric Ladyland*. It is said that these have been "digitally remastered from the master tapes for the first time", and the sound quality is good enough for the claim to be plausible. But, if true, what a scandalous indictment it is of all the times these albums have been marketed as "digitally remixed and remastered".

GOLD BLADE
Hometurf
(Ultimate TOPPCD058 £14.49)

THEIR name may remind you of instant coffee, and sometimes such word associations can be more than a coincidence. For Gold Blade, the English band led by motormouth rock journalist John Robb, offer a quick fix of 1970s punk culture with a 1990s spin that will do the trick nicely for anyone who has neither the time nor the patience to search out the real thing.

Their scattergun, pick'n'mix approach embraces a vast array of influences, from early Adam and the Ants on *Fastest Man Alive* to the Beastie Boys on *Not Even Jesus*. But dominating proceedings throughout is the inspiration of the Clash, especially on a series of ultra-belligerent rockers including *Strictly Hardcore* and *Black Elvis*.

With sleeve notes insisting that "the Tories cower as the Gold Blade righteous plan takes effect," their cartoon-revolutionary approach is entertaining enough. But whereas other latterday punks such as Rocket From The Crypt or the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion have brought something musically new to the party, *Hometurf* remains little more than the sum of Gold Blade's record collection.

Soap star in the suds: Michelle Gayle looks great but sounds less impressive on her second album, *Sensational*

THE JAYHAWKS
Sound of Lies
(American 74321 46406 £13.49)

ANOTHER album (their fifth) and yet another turning point for the Jayhawks, the Minneapolis country-rock band for whom the phrase "great things just around the corner" might have been coined. The departure of singer and songwriter Mark Olson, who broke ranks after the disappointing sales of *Tomorrow the Green Grass* in 1995, has left the reins of power firmly in the hands of the remaining singer, songwriter and guitarist Gary Louris.

As well as struggling to keep the band afloat, Louris has been having a tough time in his personal life, and it sounds like it on *Sound of Lies*, an album dominated by a succession of measured tunes with meaningful lyrics such as *Trouble*, *Think About It* and *Stick in the Mud*. The occasional uptempo tracks, such as *Big Star*, are outnumbered by the more ponderous songs — notably the dramatic *Sixteen Down* — which sometimes work as individual items, but give the collection a distinctly laboured feel overall.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(–)	**Tellin' Stories**	Charlatans (Beggars Banquet)
2	(2)	**Spice**	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3	(–)	**In it for the Money**	Supergrass (Parlophone)
4	(3)	**Ultra**	Depeche Mode (Mute)
5	(4)	**Mother Nature Calls**	Cast (Polydor)
6	(1)	**Dig Your Own Hole**	Chemical Brothers (Virgin)
7	(6)	**White on Blonde**	Texas (Mercury)
8	(9)	**Blur**	Blur (Food)
9	(5)	**10**	Wet Wet Wet (Precious Organisation)
10	(7)	**Tragic Kingdom**	No Doubt (Interscope)

Copyright CIN

● *Figure in brackets denotes last week's position*

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TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

■ CHOICE 1

Christine Brewer stars as ENO revives *Ariadne on Naxos*

VENUE: Opens tonight at the London Coliseum

■ CHOICE 2

Appassionata man: Maurizio Pollini continues his Beethoven cycle

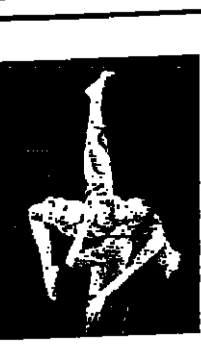
VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Curtain up on Ayckbourn's new *Things We Do For Love*

VENUE: Tonight, Stephen Juseph, Scarborough



■ DANCE

Phoenix Dance Company marks its fifteenth anniversary with a beautiful new piece

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

ARIADNE ON NAXOS: Richard Hickox leads an international cast in English National Opera's stylish revival of Strauss's bittersweet backstage comedy. Christine Brewer, Jon Fredric West and Ene Mills make their house debuts. Lynn Binstock directs.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Opens tonight, 7.30pm ♿

THE FIX: New American musical by John Dempsey and Dana P. Rowe, directed by Sam Mendes. John Barrowman plays an ambitious political candidate, and the excellent Kathryn Evans is his scheming mother.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens May 12, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

MAURIZIO POLLINI: Continuing his *chronological survey of all of* Beethoven's piano sonatas which began here last November, the acclaimed pianist tackles a programme which includes the Sonata in F minor, Op 57 (*Appassionata*); and Sonata in E flat, Op 81a (*Das Lebewohl*).
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Sir Georg Solti conducts Shostakovich's enigmatic Symphony No 15 and a selection from Mahler's bold settings of texts from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*. With the mezzo soprano Charlotte Hellekant.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF: An evening of romance is on offer as Tadaaki Otaka conducts the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in a programme of music by Glazunov, Tchaikovsky and Elgar.
St David's Hall, The Hayes (01222 878444). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

COVENTRY: Lloyd Newson brings his controversial dance-cum-theatre group DV8 to town for two nights with **Bound to Please**, a work seeking to "subvert the rules of traditional choreography, and confront our notions of conformity".
Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick (01203 524524). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm ♿

MANCHESTER: A special weekend celebrating the music of the eccentric Australian composer Percy Grainger opens tonight. The BBC Philharmonic under Richard Hickox with Nikolai Demidenko on the piano performs a programme featuring a rare live performance of Grainger's masterpiece, *The Warriors*. More Grainger tomorrow, performed by the Hallé Orchestra in a programme also featuring Sibelius and Nielsen.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. ♿

SCARBOROUGH: World premiere for Alan Ayckbourn's new comedy **Things We Do for Love**. The author directs.
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Westborough (01723 370541). Opens tonight 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm; mats some Sats (tomorrow, May 10, 31), 3pm. Until May 31. ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

Art First: Ian Welsh: Norwegian Calendar (0171-734 0386) ... **British Museum**: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt (0171-636 1555) ... **Chris Beetles**: Roy Hammond (0171-839 7551) ... **Dulwich Picture**: Art Beyond the Visible (0181-693 5254) ... **Festival Hall**: Sarajevo, a City and its People Under Siege (0171-960 4242) ... **Goethe-Institut**: Lucia Moholy: Bauhaus Photographer (0171-411 3400) ... **Llewellyn Alexander**: A Million Brushstrokes (0171-620 1322) ... **National**: London's Monets; Dürer's *Saint Jerome* (0171-747 2885) ... **Saatchi**: Duane Hanson (0171-624 8299) ... **Tate**: Lovis Corinth; Hogarth the Painter (0171-887 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ ***THE CAUCASIAN CHALK* CIRCLE**: The Olivier is transformed into a "theatre in the round" for Simon McBurney's production of Brecht's last important work. Juliet Stevenson plays Grusha, with McBurney as the ingenious judge, Azdak.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm

☐ **DONA ROSITA**: Phoebe Nicholls *plays the patient spinster, pointlessly* hopeful, but then this is Lorca. Eleanor Bron, Kathryn Hunter, Celia Imrie, Kerry Shale, Clive Swift also feature in Phyllida Lloyd's production.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens April 29, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until June 7

☐ ***EAST IS EAST***: Second West End showing for Ayub Khan-Din's enjoyable family drama, comic and serious, set in 1970s Salford where a Pakistani patriarch vainly tries to bring up his six children according to ancestral tradition.
Royal Court Downstairs (Duke of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 3.30pm. Until May 24.

☐ **MARLENE**: Siân Phillips gives an attractive performance as the singer with the golden sheath dress. On the whole, more successful than Pam Gems's play.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **NOISE**: The subject of will be familiar to anyone whose music-mad neighbour has blasted their lives. Teenage newly-weds move into a flat next to a techno maniac in Alex Jones's new play. Mark Brickman directs the second play in the Site Specific season.
Soho Theatre at 21 Dean Street, W1 (0171-420 0022). Final performances tonight and tomorrow, 8pm.

☐ **POPCORN**: Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his come-uppance when a couple of serial killers blame him for their misdeeds. Laurence Boswell directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm

☐ **THE UBU PLAYS**: First in a season of European satire. John Wright directs a centenary production of Jarry's anarchic, prescient masterpiece. Kenneth McLeish translates the saga of monstrously vulgar and cruel King Ubu.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). *Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.*

☐ **THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES**: Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Molière's deluded hero. Eric Sykes excellent as his flicker-fingered servant.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE**: Hit Broadway compilation show celebrating the songwriting team Leiber and Stoller, responsible for *Hound Dog*, *Jailhouse Rock* and *Spanish Harlem*.
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) ... ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ... ◩ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ... ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ... ◩ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) ... ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

COLD COMFORT FARM (PG): Ungainly cinema transfer for John Schlesinger's TV version of the spoof rural melodrama. With Kate Beckinsale and Eileen Atkins.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

EDDIE (12): Whoopi Goldberg becomes a basketball coach. Yawn-inducing comedy. Director, Steve Rash.
Notting Hill Coronet ♿ (0171-727 6705) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

RETURN OF THE JEDI (U): Luke Skywalker battles Darth Vader yet again. Special edition of the 1983 *Star Wars* sequel, with Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, and Carrie Fisher.
ABCs: Baker St (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Sqe** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636)

THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE (PG): Mute servant girl meets a serial killer. Vintage thrills from 1945, with Dorothy McGuire. Director, Robert Siodmak.
NFT ♿ (0171-928 3232)

VERTIGO (PG): Restored print of Hitchcock's hypnotic thriller, with James Stewart and Kim Novak.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691)

CURRENT

CITIZEN KANE (U): Orson Welles's enthralling examination of the American dream, first released in 1941.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite worth all the praise. Director, Anthony Minghella.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE YOU (12): New York neuroses set to music by Woody Allen. Beguiling, but thin.
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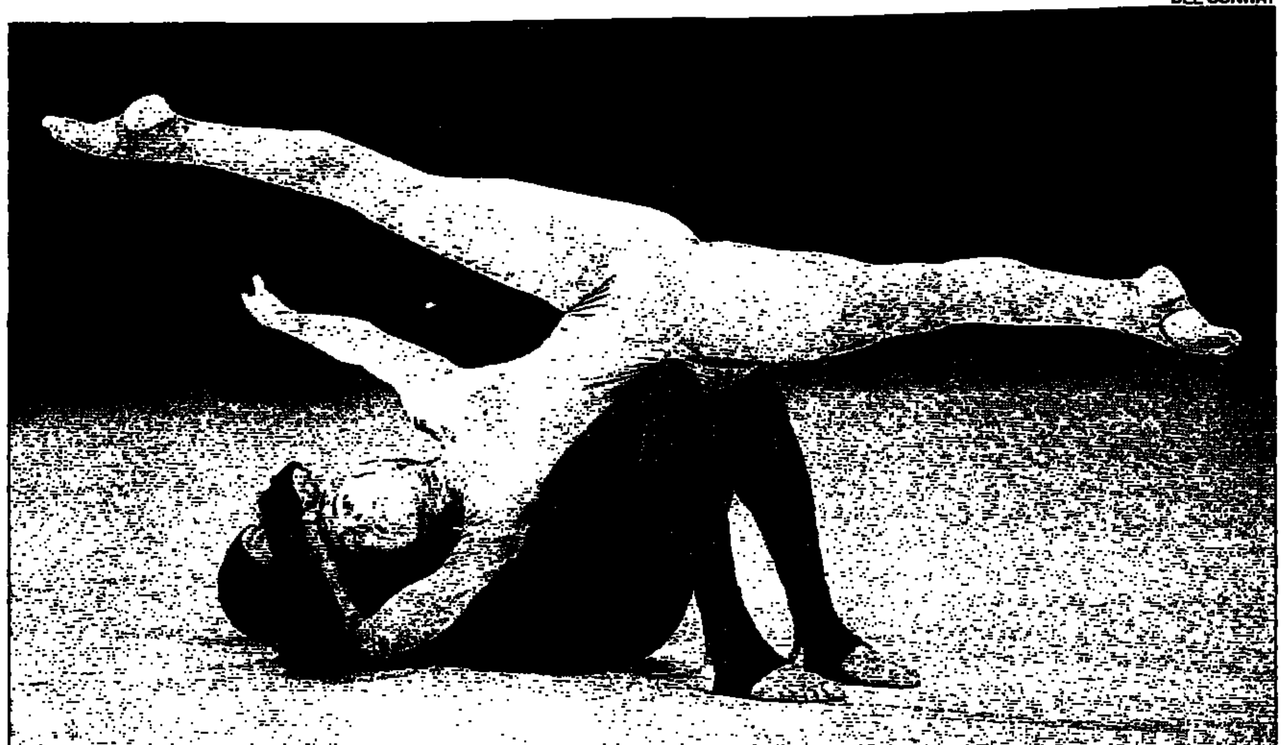
Artistry out of the ashes

DEE CONWAY



Jeannette Brooks and Ricardo G.Goodison wriggling through Darshan Singh Bhuller's new White Picket Fence

DANCE

Phoenix Dance

Queen Elizabeth Hall

In the 15 years of its existence, the black Leeds-based Phoenix Dance Company has survived several switches of director. New regimes have formulated new constitutions — to bring in women, to bring in white dancers, not to bring in white dancers. Director number four, Thea Barnes, an American, arrived in January, *too early to affect the repertoire now being toured.*

Too often Phoenix's offerings have seemed to turn to ashes on stage, so a double welcome to Pamela L. Johnson's dream-like and beautifully crafted new piece, *Eve's Reflection*. Like a painter laying overlapping planes of colour onto canvas, Johnson (who is a dancer in the company) divides her space into superimposed shifting squares by means of gauze curtains and pools of light. Appearing within these are carefully constructed groups of dancers and an itinerant trio of musicians. Jason Yarde's commissioned score of staccato mosaics of notes penetrates the air with uncomfortable monotony; but Johnson's frequently inventive movement helps to distract your attention from this.

The piece starts with a woman transported by a cluster of dancers as in a mythic journey, her body surging onwards, her feet never touching the ground. This is a piece about universal woman. Relationships form and end, couples evolving in parallel territories, an aggressive pair lashing out and contrasting with more peaceable ones.

Darshan Singh Bhuller's *White Picket Fence* is fine if you don't know Paul Taylor's work; otherwise, like Bhuller's previous piece for Phoenix, it feels too much like a rip-off to succeed fully. A luscious turf floor and TV screens showing film of countryside (and white fences) ingeniously set the scene; but the flavour of Taylor's *Cloven Kingdom* suffuses the action intent on showing us the animal inside civilised human beings, with surreal passages of wriggling reptiles.

Danial Shapiro and Joanie Smith's *Covering Ground* had me wriggling to go home, a piece which builds an elaborate edifice of relentless activity out of a whimsical idea for props: pieces of carpet that act as the dancers' personal spaces. The effect depends on your sense of humour being able to plug into the determined jollity, because the crude, flurried dance shapes hold no aesthetic interest. Let us hope Phoenix's new director will introduce different criteria of taste to the repertoire.

NADINE MEISNER

CONCERTS: Father and son take on Shostakovich; plus a Czech maestro on an Austro-German theme

A family affair

Philharmonia/Sanderling

Festival Hall

MUSSORGSKY'S Prelude to *Khovanschina*, which opened this concert, provided a glimpse of the broad, melodious but understated warmth that characterised all the performances. Kurt Sanderling drew a wonderful, veiled pianissimo from the Philharmonia strings in a refined reading of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony. The Philharmonia winds were, as ever, sensitive and the brass tip-toed through the trio, restrained along with the whole orchestra until the final movement when brightness burst in.

At the centre of the concert was Sanderling's youngest son, Michael's convincing delivery of Shostakovich's Second Cello Concerto. This is a fiendish work and in several more experienced hands has come across as so many staves of unmapped territory, haunted with bastardised echoes from the First Concerto. The logical, driven imperative of the earlier work has given way to something fragmentary, introverted, a statement of intense desolation from a sick man.

Michael Sanderling had the measure of the whole, carving out a narrative from the wandering opening, although his sound, rich and clear, at times lacked variation in pressure. But from the second movement he showed himself able to switch instantly between dancing nonchalance and anxiety.

The Philharmonia's lower strings couldn't quite match his alacrity: nevertheless, this was clearly a night for their A-list players. While everyone knows that orchestra personnel don't play every concert, bringing on the concertmaster for the second half only transmits a somewhat baffling message. Christopher Warren-Green certainly made his presence felt in the Tchaikovsky, but why did he not play in the concerto? Will the real Philharmonia stand up?

HELEN WALLACE

Fine Czech mateship

RLPO/Pešek

Barbican

DURING their ten years together, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and its music director Libor Pešek have forged one of the most solid partnerships on the British music scene. The Czech maestro, a link with his country's great, but threatened, musical tradition, conducts with old-fashioned authority.

At the end of next month he will become Conductor Laureate, but the Czech repertoire which has loomed large in his work with the RLPO will continue under his compatriot, Petr Altrichter.

It was interesting to hear Pešek in an Austro-German programme of standard works, but there was nothing standard about his performance of Webern's *Passacaglia*, Op 1, which had cerebral clarity and poetic beauty.

Webern when performed like this is a good introduction to Brahms, especially when he is played with the soft-grained introspection Pešek brought to the Violin Concerto. The orchestra's mellow strings glowed warmly in the first two movements. Kurt Nikkanen proved to be capable of big, gleaming tone, but he was a hard-nosed soloist with a very different approach to the piece from Pešek's: in effect we heard two different interpretations, and at every turn the orchestra's seemed preferable. Only in the strongly accented Hungarian dance of the finale did the two strands come together.

The central European countryside evoked in Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* is something for which Pešek, a notable Dvořákian, has instinctive feel. His account was full of congenial spirit, every phrase was carefully shaped. Indeed, the RLPO now sounds more like a central European orchestra than an English one: the woodwind solos supplying the pastoral colouring had bright individuality, and the horns were splendidly incisive.

JOHN ALLISON

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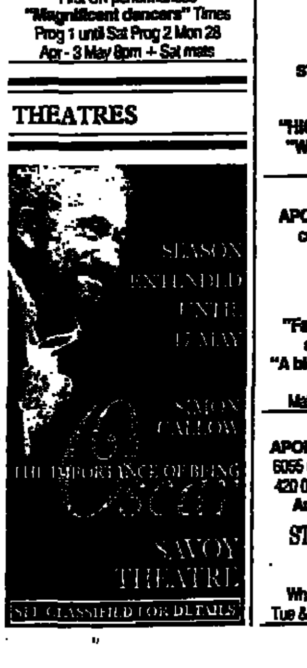

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House of Lords

No nuisance in TV signal interference

Hunter and Others v Canary Wharf Ltd
Hunter and Others v London Docklands Development Corporation

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Cooke of Thorndon and Lord Hope of Craighead

[Speeches April 24]

A landowner was, generally, entitled to build on his land as he wished and, accordingly, would not be liable in nuisance because a large building he had erected had interfered with television reception.

An action in private nuisance could generally only be brought by a person with an interest in the land and persons with no proprietary interest with whom householders shared their homes, including wives, husbands, partners, children and other relatives, could not sue.

The House of Lords, Lord Cooke dissenting on the second issue, dismissed an appeal by the plaintiffs, originally Patricia Hunter and 689 others, and allowed a cross-appeal by the defendants, Canary Wharf Ltd, in the first action and an appeal by the defendants, London Docklands Development Corporation, in the second action from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Pill) (*The Times* October 13, 1995; [1996] 2 WLR 348), who had reversed rulings on preliminary issues by Judge Richard Havery, QC, sitting on official referees' business, on September 5, 1994.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, Mr Philip Havers, QC and Mr Daniel Stilitz for both defendants; Mr Daniel Brennan, QC, Mr Charles Pugh and Miss Sarah Moor for the plaintiffs.

LORD GOFF said that the plaintiffs in the first action claimed that the interference with their television reception had been caused by the construction of the Canary Wharf Tower on land developed by the defendants. The tower was nearly 250 metres high and over 50 metres square.

The plaintiffs, who lived at the material time in an area on the Isle of Dogs called the shadow area, said that, because of its size and the metal in its surface, it had caused interference with the signals from the BBC transmitter at Crystal Palace. A relay transmitter had subsequently been built to overcome the problem.

In the second action, the plaintiffs, residents in the affected area, claimed damages in respect of damage caused by what they claimed to be an excessive amount of dust created by the construction by the defendants of the Limehouse Link Road.

That interference with television reception might in appropriate circumstances be protected by the law of nuisance had been recognised in Canada, in *Nor-Video Services Ltd v Ontario Hydro* ((1978) 84 DLR (3d) 221, 231).

There was, however, a more formidable obstacle to the plaintiffs' claim. Their complaint rested simply on the presence of the defendants' building. As a general rule, a man was entitled to build on his own land, although nowadays subject to planning control.

Moreover, as a general rule that right was not restricted by the fact that the presence of the building might of itself interfere with his neighbour's enjoyment of his land. It might spoil his view, and in the absence of an easement it might restrict the flow of air or take away light.

For an action in private nuisance to lie in respect of interference with enjoyment of land it would generally arise from something emanating from the defendant's land: noise, dirt, fumes, smell, vibrations and suchlike, or the deflection of sunlight so as to cause a dazzling glare: *Bank of New Zealand v Greenwood* ([1984] 1 NZLR 525).

The mere fact that a building on the defendant's land got in the way and so prevented something from reaching the plaintiff's land was, generally speaking, not enough.

His Lordship therefore agreed with the Court of Appeal that no action lay in private nuisance for interference with television caused by the mere presence of a building.

Subject to one exception, namely that a person who was in exclusive possession of land could sue even though he could not prove title to it (*Foster v Warblington UDC* ([1906] 1 KB 648), it had for many years been regarded as settled law that a person who had no right in the land could not sue in private nuisance: *Malone v Laskey* ([1907] 2 KB 141).

Recently, however, the Court of Appeal had departed from that line of authority in *Khorasandjian v Bush* ([1993] QB 727), where, by a majority, it had held that the plaintiff had been entitled to invoke the tort of private nuisance to obtain an injunction restraining the defendant from making harassing telephone calls to her at her parents' home.

The question was whether their Lordships should be persuaded to depart from established principle and recognise a right to sue in private nuisance in persons who were no more than mere licensees on the land.

Any such departure faced the problem of defining the category of persons who would have the right to sue.

The Court of Appeal in the present case had adopted the not easily identifiable category of those who had a "substantial link" with the land, regarding a person who occupied the premises "as a home" as having a sufficient link for that purpose.

But who was to be included in that category? It was plainly intended to include husbands and wives, or partners, and their children, and even other relatives. But was it also to include a lodger, or an au pair girl or resident nurse?

In any event, the extension of the tort in that way would transform it from a tort to land into a tort to the person, in which damages could be recovered in respect of something less serious than personal injury and the criteria for liability were founded not on negligence but on striking a balance between the interests of neighbours in the use of their land. That was not an acceptable way to develop the law.

Khorasandjian v Bush must be overruled in so far as it held that a mere licensee could sue in private nuisance.

Lord Lloyd, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Hope delivered concurring opinions.

LORD COOKE said that occupation of the property as a home was to him an acceptable criterion for entitlement to sue in private nuisance.

It was consistent also with international standards.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

Broad approach to construing insurance policy

Sargent v GRE (UK) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment April 16]

Where, in a claim under a personal accident insurance policy, the relevant provision was unclear, a broader approach to the construction of a commercial document was appropriate, embracing consideration of the policy as a whole, its context, scheme and surrounding circumstances.

Accordingly, where the claim was for a specified sum under a clause in the policy for "permanent total disablement from attending to any occupation", the claimant, who was permanently disabled from attending to the occupation he followed at the time his disabling injury occurred and during the period of cover, was entitled to such sum.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, Christopher David Sargent, against the judgment of Judge Michael Evans, QC, who on September 5, 1995, in Haverfordwest County Court had dismissed his claim for £10,000 pursuant to his personal accident policy with the defendant, GRE (UK) Ltd, following an accident on the football field in November 1991 which resulted in amputation of the plaintiff's right index finger and permanent disablement from continuing his occupation as a dry line jointer.

Mr Richard Colbey for the plaintiff; Mr Anthony Reddiford for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the plaintiff took out the policy while serving as a corporal in the Royal Corps of Transport. His accident occurred after he left the Army in June 1991 and began employment as a dry line jointer, a semi-skilled occupation involving cutting and fixing plaster boards which were then cemented to walls or nailed to partitions and ceilings.

The judge concluded that the clause's ordinary meaning was that the benefit was to be paid out in the event that he could not carry on any occupation at all, and he rejected as contrary to the object of the policy and as absurd, the plaintiff's contention that, for the claim to payment under the policy, it was irrelevant that he could carry on other occupations.

His Lordship said that it was not particularly illuminating and might be misleading to adopt the dictionary approach to the question of construction by simply asking what the words "any occupation" meant. Nor was it normally permissible to add words to the relevant provision, for example, "any occupation at all".

The relevant provision in the present policy was unclear. The purely linguistic approach to construction produced two conflicting positions. The plaintiff contended that if there was any occupation he was unable to carry on because of the injury he was entitled to the £10,000; the defendant argued that if there was any occupation which he could perform then he was not so entitled.

A broader approach to construction was appropriate, which should help to bring into sharper focus the object of the unclear provision.

Having considered the policy and the relevant terms and conditions, his Lordship said that it was important to bear in mind that the policy was primarily tailored to fit serving members of the Armed Forces.

The table listing the benefits drew a distinction between an occupation in the Armed Forces and the occupation of a person who was not a member of the Armed Forces.

The sum of £10,000 was payable to a member of the Armed Forces who had permanent total disablement "from following own or alternative occupation in HM Forces necessitating medical discharge from [the] Forces". The sum was payable even though the insured was not permanently disabled from following other occupations outside the Armed Forces.

The relevant provision for the person not a member of the Armed Forces drew no distinction between "own or alternative occupation". He was entitled to payment if he was permanently disabled "from attending to any occupation", that is, any occupation outside the Armed Forces.

An "alternative occupation" was not caught by the expression "any occupation" which had to be limited in its context to any relevant occupation.

The plaintiff, no longer a member of the Army, was thus entitled to payment as he was permanently disabled from attending to his occupation as a dry liner. It was not relevant to inquire whether he was also disabled from attending to an alternative occupation.

Lord Justice Thorpe agreed and Lord Justice Leggatt gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bissmire Fudge & Co, Haverfordwest; Sansbury Hill, Bristol.

Third party must notify witness of request for statement

British and Commonwealth Holdings plc (in Administration) v Barclays de Zoete Wedd Ltd and Others
In re Atlantic Computers plc (in Administration)

A third party wishing to apply for disclosure to him of any witness statement given to inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of an insolvent company under section 432(2) of the Companies Act 1985 must first tell the witness.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so stated in the Chancery Division on March 26 when hearing an application by the administrators of Atlantic Computers plc seeking disclosure of 54 witness statements taken by inspectors of the Department of Trade and Industry investigating the collapse of British and Commonwealth Holdings plc and applications by the administrators of BCH and others in actions brought by them against Barclays de Zoete Wedd Ltd, Atlantic and others on whether certain statements in those administrators' possession were privileged from production under Order 24 of the Rules of the Supreme Court on the grounds of public interest immunity or confidentiality.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the relatively advanced stage of the litigation made it inappropriate to make any special order outside the normal processes of discovery and he would set aside the order for disclosure of edited transcripts of BZW witnesses and order that edited transcripts of BCH witnesses should not be disclosed.

However, he had been persuaded that Atlantic was entitled, as against BCH, to obtain what might be important evidence as to what its own chief executive had been saying on its behalf during the period of its acquisition by BCH.

Bank must rebut wife's challenge

Barclays Bank plc v Boulter and Another

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir Brian Neill

[Judgment April 23]

Where in a possession action by a bank as mortgagee of freehold property the wife counterclaimed that her half share of the property was free of the bank's legal charge, the bank as creditor had the burden of proving, in reply to the wife's challenge, that it had no constructive notice of the matters she relied on in support of her challenge.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the interlocutory appeal of the second defendant wife, Julie Boulter, from a ruling of Judge Simmons in Luton County Court on September 18, 1996, that it was necessary for the wife to plead constructive notice by the bank.

The ruling was made at the start of an action by the plaintiff, Barclays Bank plc, for possession of a freehold registered property, 6 Little Potters, Bushey, Hertfordshire, jointly owned by the husband, Victor John Boulter, and his wife.

Mr Christopher Coney for the wife; Mr Michael Sullivan for the bank; the husband did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the point in the present case was important in claims founded on the decision of the House of Lords in *Barclays Bank plc v O'Brien* ([1994] 1 AC 180, 198-199).

In 1979 the husband and wife executed a legal charge over the property in the bank's favour. The husband did not comply with the bank's demand for payment of moneys owed. The husband and wife refused to agree to a sale or to vacate the property.

In the bank's action for possession, the wife served a separate defence from the husband and counterclaimed for a half share of the property free of its legal charge.

His Lordship said that Mr Coney's case was that the wife had pleaded all the relevant facts entitling her to contend that the bank was fixed with constructive notice of her right to have the charge set aside.

Those included admission that she signed the charge, particulars in support of her claim that her husband made a misrepresentation to her on which she relied in signing the charge, that she signed believing the charge secured the property only to the amount borrowed in order to purchase the property and no more, and that the meaning and effect of the charge were not explained.

He further contended that the legal consequences of material facts did not have to be pleaded, and that, if established by evidence, fixed the bank with constructive notice. Nor had constructive notice been expressly pleaded in the *O'Brien* case.

His Lordship said that procedure and practice required all material facts should be pleaded. In general, only facts should be pleaded, not evidence relied on to prove them, not points of law and not argument.

The wife was entitled on the basis of the facts already pleaded to argue the issue of constructive notice. It was unnecessary for her to add another paragraph expressly alleging it.

The speech of Lord Browne-Wilkinson in *O'Brien* (at pp191, 195-196) supported the view that the same approach to pleading and proof of constructive notice applied to the *O'Brien* type of case as in the standard case of the bona fide purchaser for value of the legal estate without notice of an equitable estate or interest: see also *Meagher Gummow and Lehane, Equity: Doctrines and Remedies* (3rd edition (1992) pp257-259).

Thus it was for the bank or other creditor to prove, and to plead it did not have constructive notice.

The bank might contend it was not fixed with such notice because (i) in the circumstances, there was nothing to put it on inquiry as to the potential existence of the claim, and (ii) if there was, it took reasonable steps necessary to avoid being fixed with such notice.

Both being put on inquiry and taking reasonable steps were aspects of constructive notice.

His Lordship rejected the bank's submission that the burden of proof and the pleading was split, and it was for the wife to plead the bank was put on inquiry and that then, and only then, was it for the bank to plead it took reasonable steps to avoid being fixed with notice.

His Lordship added that in cases like *O'Brien* it was irrelevant whether the land was registered or unregistered: the question was whether the creditor had actual or constructive notice of the facts on which the equity to set aside the transaction was founded.

Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Brian Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Comptons, Camden Town; Teacher Stern Selby.

House of Lords

Striking out case brought in abuse of process

Grovit and Others v Doctor and Others

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Woolf, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches April 24]

The commencement and continuation of litigation which a plaintiff had no intention of bringing to a conclusion could amount to an abuse of process. Where that applied, the party against whom the proceedings were brought was entitled to to apply to have the action struck out and if justice so required, which would frequently be the case, the courts would dismiss the action.

The evidence relied on to establish the abuse of process could be the plaintiff's inactivity. The same evidence would then no doubt be capable of supporting an application to dismiss for want of prosecution.

However, if there was an abuse of process, it was not strictly necessary to establish want of prosecution under either of the limbs identified by Lord Diplock in *Birkett v James* ([1978] AC 297). Once a conclusion was reached that the reason for the delay was one which involved abusing the process of the court in maintaining proceedings when there was no intention of carrying the case to trial the court was entitled to dismiss the proceedings.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Felix Fareed Ismail Grovit, from the dismissal of his appeal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Evans) on October 28, 1993, from a decision of Mr John Crowley, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, on October 30, 1992, that the writ and statement of claim in his action for libel should be struck out for want of prosecution.

Mr Isaac Jacob and Mr Martin Young for Mr Grovit; the respondents were not represented.

LORD WOOLF said that the approach which was adopted by courts on an application to dismiss an action for want of prosecution was set out by Lord Diplock in *Birkett v James* (at p318F-G):

"The power should be exercised only where the court is satisfied either (1) that the default has been intentional and contumelious, eg disobedience to a peremptory order of the court or conduct amounting to an abuse of process of the court; or (2)(a) that there has been inordinate and inexcusable delay on the part of the plaintiff or his lawyers, and (b) that such delay will give rise to a substantial risk that it is not possible to have a fair trial of the issues in the action or is such as is likely to cause or to have caused serious prejudice to the defendants either as between themselves and the plaintiff or between each other or between them and a third party."

Counsel for the appellant had identified the primary issue to be determined as being:

"Can inexcusable and inordinate delay (if stigmatised as an abuse of process) constitute, or be treated as prejudice without the need for the defendant to show actual prejudice or a substantial risk that a fair trial would be impossible? Alternatively is it permissible to take elements which might (but are not sufficient on their own to) amount to a ground for striking out for an abuse of process, combine them with delay and treat the combination as an additional and hybrid ground for striking out?"

Mr Jacob submitted that the appeal raised that issue because the conduct by the plaintiff of which complaint was made was insufficient by itself to amount to an abuse of the process of the court so as to satisfy principle (1).

Furthermore principle (2) was not satisfied since, although it was accepted that there had been inordinate and inexcusable delay, there had been no serious prejudice to the respondents.

Although principle (1) linked abuse of process with delay which was intentional and contumelious, the prevention of abuse of process had by itself long been a ground for the courts striking out or staying actions by virtue of their inherent jurisdiction irrespective of the question of delay and Lord Diplock's statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendants had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smaller Transport Ltd* ([1989] AC 1197, 1204-1205). The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' speech had not seen any improvement in the problems caused by the delay in the conduct of civil proceedings.

In the county court, a response to the corrosive effect of delay had been to introduce the automatic strike-out under Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules.

However, that had proved to be a crude remedy the effects of which had not been wholly beneficial. It had funded an industry of satellite litigation.

Furthermore, there was now on the horizon the introduction of the sort of process of reform to the rules of procedure which Lord Griffiths thought was required.

In that situation it was at least open to question whether it was not preferable to await the outcome of the implementation of the new rules before making a substantial inroad on the principles endorsed by Lord Diplock in *Birkett v James*.

Courts should by case management prevent the delay happening. If delays did happen they could provide the court with wider powers to mitigate the consequences.

In the meantime, both the court and defendants had the means to achieve greater control over delay. Defendants did not need to wait until there had been inordinate delay before applying for peremptory orders, although they were under no obligation to do that.

The courts should more readily make "unless orders"; that is, orders that an action should be struck out unless certain steps were taken at certain times.

The advantage of such an order was that it placed the onus on the plaintiff to justify the action being allowed to continue, whereas in the case of an application to strike out the onus was on the defendant to show the action should be struck out.

Having set out the context in which the main issue identified by Mr Jacob had to be considered his Lordship turned to the facts.

Having considered the factual background, his Lordship was satisfied that both the deputy judge and the Court of Appeal were entitled to come to the conclusion which they did as to the reason for the appellant's inactivity over two years. That conduct constituted an abuse of process.

The courts existed to enable parties to have their disputes resolved. To commence and continue litigation which one had no intention to bring to conclusion could amount to an abuse of process.

Lord Goff, Lord Nicholls, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Fladgate Fielder.

Appeal tribunal interfered impermissibly

The Post Office v Lewis

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment April 22]

When the decision of an industrial tribunal was neither perverse nor contained an error of law it was impermissible for the Employment Appeal Tribunal to interfere on the ground that the industrial tribunal had failed to refer in its decision to the main plank of the applicant's defence.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the employer, the Post Office, against a decision dated February 22, 1996 of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Butter, Mrs T. A. Marsland and Mr B. M. Warman) who had allowed an appeal by the applicant, Delroy Patrick Lewis, from a decision dated October 25, 1994 of a London industrial tribunal.

Miss Joanna Heal for the Post Office; Mr Michael Kay for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that 59 items of mail destined for a block of flats in Tooting, south London, were found in a letter box in Tooting on October 5, 1993.

The evidence was that they should not have been there because they had already been through the sorting process. The likelihood was that they represented one day's delivery and the applicant was the object of suspicion since he was the only postman on that round that day.

He denied the charge of wilfully delaying delivery of the mail. After an internal inquiry the Post Office dismissed the applicant.

The industrial tribunal found that the decision to dismiss was unfair due to insufficient investigation but concluded that even if the Post Office had investigated more thoroughly it would still have dismissed the applicant and acted fairly in doing so, and that on a balance of probability he had wilfully delayed delivery. It ruled that his conduct was blameworthy so that it would not be just and equitable to make any award or order reinstatement.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed the applicant's appeal and remitted the case for rehearing on the ground that the industrial tribunal's decision was seriously flawed by omitting to deal specifically with the main plank of the applicant's defence.

His Lordship said the industrial tribunal had not found it necessary to resolve the main plank issue because of the weight it gave to another matter. The weight to be given to evidence was for the tribunal of fact and the appeal tribunal had interfered impermissibly.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

Solicitors: Mr R. Q. Williams, Croydon; Simpson Millar, Southwark.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

State must compensate for loss caused by breach of directive

Regina v Secretary of State for Social Security, Ex parte Sutton

Case C-66/95

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, L. Sevón, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann and H. Ragnemalm

Advocate General P. Léger

(Opinion September 19, 1996)

[Judgment April 22]

The Community directive on equal treatment in matters of social security did not itself require the payment of interest on arrears of a social security benefit when the delay in payment resulted from discrimination contrary to the directive. However, member states were required to make reparation for loss and damage caused to individuals as a result of a breach of Community law.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty, in proceedings raising, inter alia, a question of interpretation of Council Directive 79/7/EEC of December 19, 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ 1979 L6 p24).

Section 37 of the Social Security Act 1975, as amended, provided that a person was entitled, under certain conditions, to invalidity care allowance for any day on which he was engaged in caring for a severely disabled person.

By section 37(5), the allowance was only payable if the claimant had not attained pensionable age (60 for women and 65 for men) or was entitled to the allowance immediately before attaining that age.

In 1987 the claimant, Eunice Sutton, who was then aged 63 and cared for her daughter, applied for invalidity care allowance, but the application was rejected on the ground that the claimant had reached pensionable age.

The claimant appealed on the ground that section 37(5) was contrary to Directive 79/7 since it prevented her, on account of her age, from obtaining a benefit to which a man of the same age would have been entitled.

The social security commissioner, who had stayed the proceedings until a ruling had been given in parallel cases, allowed the appeal, holding that in the light of the judgment in Case C-328/91 *Thomas v Chief Adjudication Officer* (*The Times* April 5, 1993; [1993] QB 747; [1993] ECR I-1247), the adjudication officer could not rely on article 7(1)(a) of Directive 79/7, which permitted member states to exclude from the Directive's scope the determination of pensionable age for the purposes of granting retirement pensions and the possible consequences thereof for other benefits, to justify the refusal of the benefit.

The commissioner ordered the payment of arrears of allowance.

The secretary of state dismissed the claimant's claim for interest on those arrears, on the ground that English law did not provide for payment of interest on social security payments.

In proceedings in which the claimant contested that decision, the Divisional Court referred the question whether Community law entitled the claimant to interest in the circumstances.

Article 6 of Directive 79/7 provides: "Member states shall introduce into their national legal systems such measures as are necessary to enable all persons who consider themselves wronged by failure to apply the principle of equal treatment to pursue their claims by judicial process..."

In its judgment the Court of Justice held:

The claimant's first submission was that there was a right to interest derived from article 6 of the directive.

She relied on Case C-271/91 *Marshall v Southampton and South West Hampshire Area Health Authority (Teaching) (No 2)* (*The Times* ASugust 4, 1993; [1994] QB 126; [1993] ECR I-4367), where it was held that article 6 of Council Directive 76/207/EEC of February 9, 1976 on equal treatment for men and women in matters of employment (OJ 1976 L39 p40) meant that reparation of loss and damage sustained as a result of discriminatory dismissal could not be limited by excluding an award of interest to compensate for loss sustained until the capital sum awarded was actually paid.

The claimant pointed out that the wording of article 6 of Directives 79/7 and 76/207 was practically identical and that both directives pursued the same objective, real equality of treatment for men and women, and argued that, consequently, article 6 of both directives should be interpreted in the same way.

That interpretation could not be adopted.

As the Court had observed in paragraph 31 of the judgment in *Marshall*, in a case of loss and damage sustained as a result of discriminatory dismissal, full compensation for the loss and damage sustained could not leave out of account factors such as the effluxion of time which might in fact reduce its value.

The award of interest, in accordance with the applicable national rules, must therefore be regarded as an essential component of compensation for the purposes of restoring real equality of treatment.

By contrast, the present proceedings concerned social security benefits paid by the competent bodies which must, in particular, examine whether the conditions laid down in the relevant legislation were fulfilled.

The amounts paid in no way constituted reparation for loss or damage sustained and the reasoning in *Marshall* could not be applied to such a situation.

Accordingly, the payment of interest on arrears of benefits could not be regarded as an essential component of the right referred to in article 6 of Directive 79/7.

The claimant submitted, second, that the right to interest flowed from the principle that a state was liable for breach of Community law.

The claimant argued that the United Kingdom had not properly transposed Directive 79/7 into national law and that, by reason of inflation, she had suffered loss on account of the belated payment of the benefit to which she was entitled, for which she should be compensated.

As the court had held in the line of case law from Joined Cases C-6 and 9/90 *Francovich v Italian Republic* (*The Times* November 20, 1991; [1995] ICR 722; [1991] ECR I-5357) to Joined Cases C-178 and 179/94 and C-188-190/94 *Dillenkofer v Federal Republic of Germany* (*The Times* October 14, 1996; [1997] 2 WLR 253), the principle that the state was liable for loss and damage caused to individuals as a result of breaches of Community law for which the state could be held liable was inherent in the system of the Treaty.

The state's obligation to make reparation for such loss and damage was subject to three conditions:

(i) the rule of law infringed must be intended to confer rights on individuals;

(ii) the breach must be sufficiently serious, and

(iii) there must be a direct causal link between the breach of the obligation resting on the state and the damage sustained by the injured parties.

Those conditions were to be applied according to each type of situation: see *Dillenkofer* (paragraph 24).

Finally, while the right to reparation was founded directly on Community law where the three conditions were fulfilled, the national law on liability provided the framework within which the state must make reparation, provided that the conditions laid down by national law relating to reparation of loss and damage were not less favourable than those relating to similar domestic claims and were not framed so as to make it virtually impossible or excessively difficult to obtain reparation.

It was for the Divisional Court to assess, in the light of the foregoing, whether in the context of the dispute before it and of the national procedure, the claimant was entitled to reparation for the loss she claimed to have suffered as a result of breach of Community law by the United Kingdom, and, if appropriate, to determine the amount of such reparation.

On those grounds the Court ruled:

Article 6 of Directive 79/7 did not require that an individual should be able to obtain interest on arrears of a social security benefit such as invalid care allowance, when the delay in payment of the benefit was the result of discrimination prohibited by the directive.

However, a member state was required to make reparation for the loss and damage caused to an individual as a result of the breach of Community law. Where the conditions for state liability were fulfilled, it was for the national court to apply that principle.

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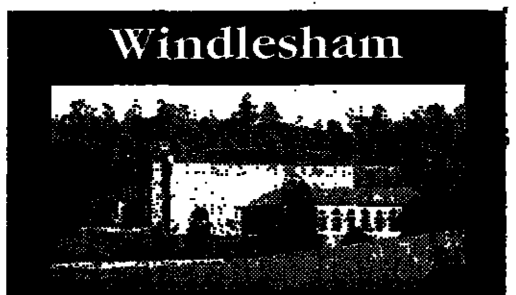

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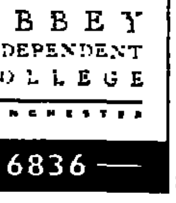

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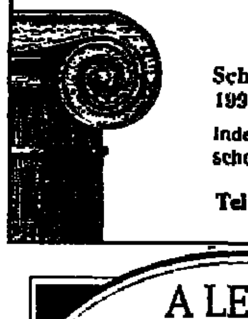

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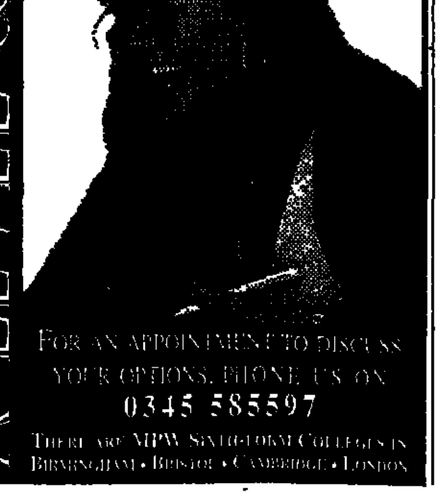

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EDUCATION

Arts survive the generation gap

John O'Leary looks at a new study on attitudes to the arts in schools

Every report on the state of the arts in schools carries the message that the combined pressures of examination league tables and budget cuts are squeezing culture out of the curriculum.

However, a study published yesterday will come as a relief to those who see the arts as a vital part of a rounded education. Academics at Exeter University conclude that the subjects have maintained their popularity with pupils and appear to be giving at least as much satisfaction as they did 25 years ago.

The report, *The state of the arts*, acknowledges that its sample is small and not necessarily representative of the country. Although 2,500 pupils were involved, limited funding restricted the survey to only five schools, all of which are known for their work in the arts. But the parallels with a much larger study conducted in 1971 suggest that the findings are not out of line with other teenagers' views.

In the earlier research by the Schools Council, school leavers characterised art as "useless but interesting" and music as "useless and boring".

Pupils' answers in 1996 suggested that the four main subjects — art, dance, drama and music — had become more enjoyable, although there were significant differences in attitude between boys and girls and between age groups. As the table below illustrates, the pecking order of subjects remains almost unchanged.

Crafts, a label covering subjects as diverse as woodwork and home economics, were popular with almost three-quarters of secondary-school pupils in 1971. Technology, the present-day equivalent, achieved an almost identical rating, as did physical education in second place and, to a lesser extent, English in third.

So consistent were the ratings over the 25-year period that the report suggests that a "law of culture" operates in schools. "Either student priorities are immune to all attempts to reconstruct the curriculum, or the 'reforms' of the past 25 years have not been as radical as might have been supposed."

Like other popularity surveys, the Exeter report shows a yawning gender gap in the attitudes to PE and English. Four out of five boys, but fewer than half the girls, favoured PE, with the ratings reversed for English. Mathematics gained in popularity, but science's rating slipped, with physics the worst affected.

Dance did not appear as a subject in 1971, but outscored music in the latest survey. Again there was a gender gap, with almost 40 per cent of girls choosing dance, making it their fifth favourite subject, compared with only 6 per cent of boys.

When pupils were asked what they liked about the various subjects, differences between subjects became more obvious. Art, for example, had lower ratings for enjoyment, interest and scope for individual ideas than it did in 1971. The report suggests that the rise of design and technology might be partly responsible.

Drama, by contrast, was popular with both sexes. Although single-teacher departments placed a strain on staff and there was some fall-off in support from pupils after the age of 14, the subject was seen as more important and enjoyable than in 1971.

Music remained the arts subject attracting most negative comments from pupils. The report says: "What seems to be lacking is a curriculum in which *making* means *playing* rather than *composing*, and a pedagogy capable of engaging and sustaining the willing and active participation of all students."

Overall, however, the health of the arts, when measured in pupil feedback, appears to be strong. However, Malcolm Ross and Maria Kamba, the authors, believe that the non-statutory status of the arts beyond the age of 14 has placed them seriously at risk.

The problems are not all to do with money. Teachers interviewed for the study rated budget cuts last in a list of 18 influences on the quality of arts provision in their schools. The support of the head teacher was the key factor for most staff, while visiting artists were considered the biggest influence on quality.

The new climate in schools is seen by the authors as a significant obstacle. "Schools are in danger of becoming factories. The new ethos of schooling is not only alien to the arts but very possibly detrimental to the personal, spiritual, cultural and social development of children, and to the personal and professional well-being of teachers."

But modern teaching methods, so often the object of criticism, appear to be working in the arts, as far as the pupils are concerned. The report adds: "For girls and boys alike, the message for arts teachers seems clear: resist the killjoy curriculum."

● State of the Arts, *£10 from Malcolm Ross, University of Exeter School of Education, Heavitree Road, Exeter EX1 2LU.*

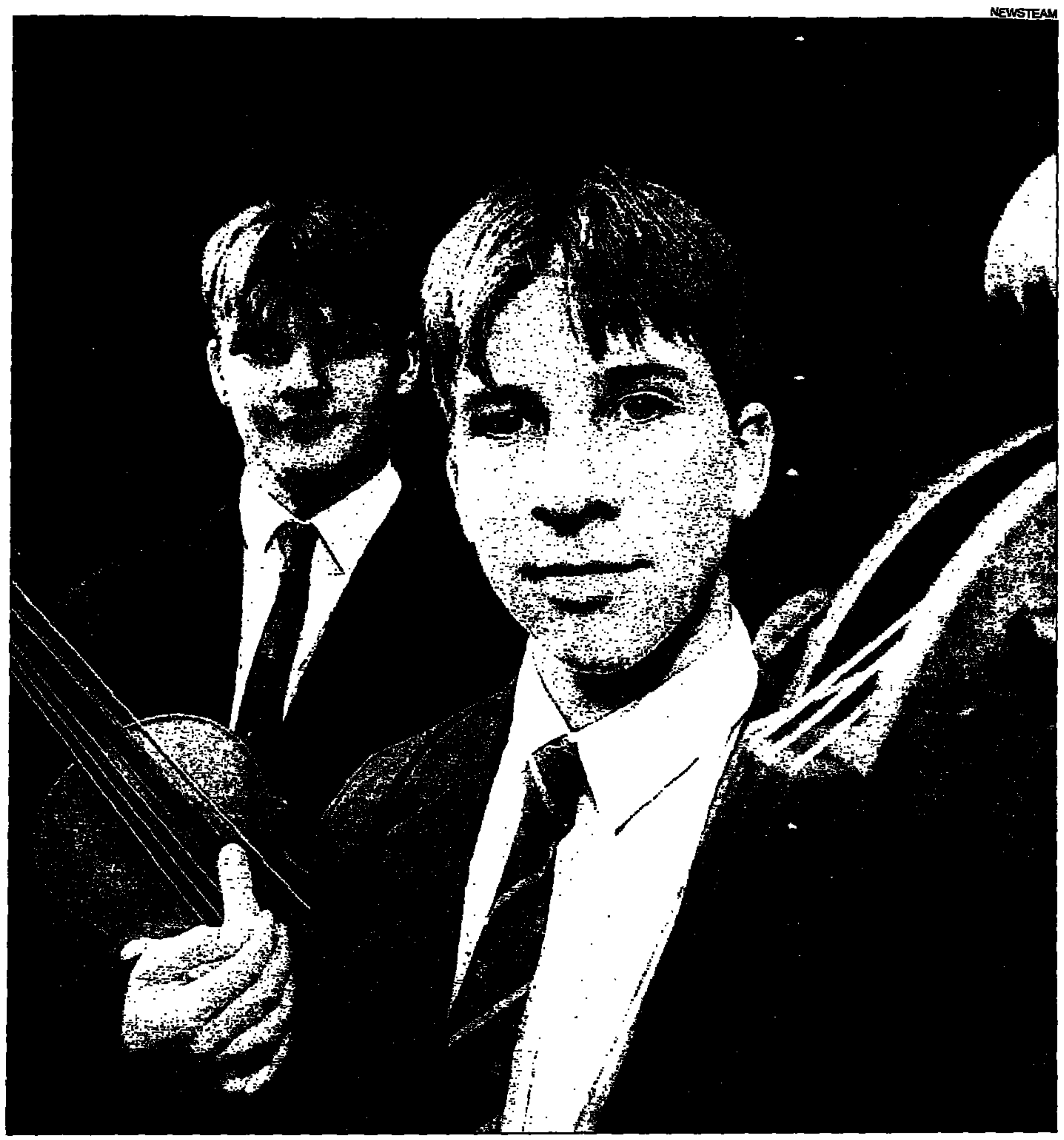
MOST POPULAR SUBJECTS

Percentage of pupils rating each subject among their favourites.

Subject 1971	%	Subject 1996	%
1.Crafts*	74.0	1.Technology*	74.5
2.PE	67.0	2.PE	68.0
3.English	53.0	3.English	57.0
4.Science	50.0	4.Mathematics	43.5
5.Art	43.0	5.Art	42.0
6.Drama	39.5	6.Science	40.0
7.Mathematics	36.0	7.Drama	36.5
8.History	30.0	8.Geography	25.5
9.Geography	28.0	9.History	23.0
10.Foreign languages	27.0	10.Foreign languages	19.0
11.Music	22.0	11.Music	15.0

* Crafts in 1971 included the full range of subjects then known as boys' and girls' crafts. To produce a matching sample, technology includes computing, media studies and craft, design and technology in 1996.

NEWSTEAM



Magnus and Guy Johnston are both former King's College choristers and both study at Chetham's School, Manchester

Has music teaching lost the score?

Susan Elkin wonders how musically talented children will get the breaks they deserve

PRIVILEGED indeed is anyone who gets the chance to hear the 15-year-old cellist Guy Johnston playing Schubert's *Adagio* and *Allegro*, as I did recently at a recital in King's College Chapel, Cambridge.

Guy, a former King's College chorister, is now a pupil at Chetham's, the specialist music school in Manchester. He is the third child in an extraordinary musical family. His older brothers Rupert, 18, and Magnus, 17, were also both King's choristers. Their sister, Brittany, 12, studies at the Royal College of Music's Saturday school and is a promising violinist.

It is salutary to meet the Johnston family and to listen to them playing at a time when so many local authorities seem to be cutting instrumental teaching. David and Gill Johnston, the parents, are both music teachers and have given their children every encouragement, which has involved making financial sacrifices. Despite maximum grant aid, through the Government's scheme for talented children, they have to pay an annual bill of about £15,000 to keep Guy and Magnus at Chetham's.

What happens to musically gifted children who happen to be born to families that cannot afford even local music lessons?

When I started the violin at the age of seven in a London County Council primary school in the 1950s, it was free. Had I been especially talented, extra individual lessons might have been arranged. Fat chance of that today.

As I write, there is a musical furore in Kent. Kent Music School (KMS) is the 49-year-old wing of Kent County Council which organises subsidised lessons for 15,000 children (and free ones for 750 children from low-income families), runs 24 local music centres and county orchestras and choirs. It also employs 450 people. KMS is threatened by a 30 per cent budget cut, which could lead to closure.

Michael Wearne, the director of KMS, says: "We are not the first to have to fight our corner. In some counties instrumental music teaching has already gone and in several others it is either under threat or soon will be. What is happening in Kent is just part of a trend."

The point is, of course, that adult musicians do not just happen fully formed. They can play as they do only because of decades of teaching, nurturing and encouragement throughout childhood. Musical talent is no respecter of birth or social class. Johannes Brahms, the centenary of whose death falls this year, was born into poor family circumstances. What an unimaginable loss it would have been had teachers and patrons not discovered him.

And even those children, like the Johnstons, who have been taught largely outside the maintained-sector system need support. Guy Johnston — even more accomplished than Rupert, who is a student at Guildhall School of Music, or Magnus, who is aiming for Royal Northern College of Music — has been offered a place to study cello under Colin Carr at the New England Conservatoire in Boston in two years' time. The cost is £24,000 a year for three years.

How many families, whatever sacrifices they make, can find that sort of money? Yet there is no grant assistance available for overseas study. The only hope is some sort of sponsorship offer.

Music education is in a muddle. We now seem to deny it altogether to the least well-off and penalise heavily those families who are a little better-off. Only the very wealthy can easily afford music lessons.

If we continue, music soon really will become the exclusive province of a tiny elite. Music is worth investing in. To destroy by default systems for developing it in young people from all backgrounds is a dreadful act of cultural vandalism.

Bet on the young, not the Lottery

Kevin Berry on the role of theatre in learning

FUNDING for the performing arts is nothing more than a lottery, and I ask no forgiveness for the pun. Reductions from the Arts Council and hard-pressed local authorities are leading to an even greater scramble for cash. Is there a theatre or touring company in the country that is not formulating a National Lottery application?

I am not altogether comfortable with the concept of subsidised theatre and the idea of money handed over simply because it has been asked for. But at the same time I am not that much of an enthusiast for cold-blooded market forces. I just have to see a theatre with empty seats; if I see an excellent play in a half-empty theatre, and then on my way home see bored teenagers hanging around the bus station, I feel angry. I have rarely seen youngsters in a theatre, and I mean youngsters who are not with their parents or part of a school party. Theatres are still the preserve of the middle class, although some do have excellent outreach programmes.

Some months ago I attended a meeting of theatre administrators and they were all bemoaning cuts in funding. It was as if arts funding is accepted as a right, with just the amount to be argued over and no thought of theatres doing something for the cash. The discussion got round to Theatre in Education funding and the need to subsidise children's tickets. "Children have a right to go to the theatre!" someone yelled. Shouts of agreement were lost in an angry condemnation of the lottery and the greed it has encouraged.

THAT phrase "Children have a right to go to the theatre" has been rattling round my brain ever since. Yes, they should have the right, and there is a way to ensure that they have it.

☐ All children under 16 to have free admission to any theatre for any show, with the possible exception of pop concerts and pantomimes. Free admission to be also available to drama students and students of English literature, and anyone in full-time education who has a legitimate academic interest in seeing a show — a student of French wanting to see *Tartuffe*, for instance.

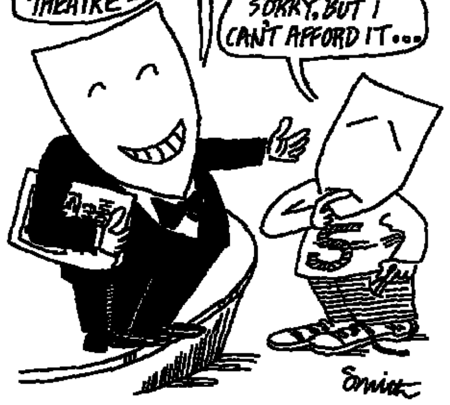
☐ Financing to come from the lottery coffers, and it should be the only lottery funding that theatres are allowed.

☐ Scrap the present application system. Then, at the end of each month, a theatre sends in a breakdown of its box-office figures. Theatres are paid the full amount for seats "given" to children, with a percentage going to the touring company. They will then have the cash to pay for new equipment and buildings. No children equals no cash.

So, we create a new audience, we stimulate an interest in theatre among teenagers. I wonder how many youngsters have gone on a school trip to see the Shakespeare they are studying, seen an ad for an interesting show and then glanced at the prices and thought: "Blow that — it's a week's pocket money!"

The pressure will be on theatres to make themselves known to youngsters and to provide a welcome. Not too difficult, or is it?

● *The author is a theatre critic*



Bob Salisbury argues for a more radical approach to present financial problems

Schools face up to an underfunded future

If nothing else, the long run-up to the election has highlighted the critical distinction between dreams and reality in the educational debate. The political sparring has in some cases made good entertainment and it can be fun watching the protagonists duck and dive to make the "three-point emphasis" or to deliver the designer soundbite. Fun, that is, until we remember the real consequences of these encounters.

The harsh reality facing schools in the future is that whichever party wins this particular race, all public-sector funding will continue to decline. In real terms the resources devoted to education are relatively low when compared to the amounts spent by other OECD countries, but even this dismal truth hides a much more worrying, wider long-term trend. Worldwide there seems to be an ever widening gap between the cost of running schools and the funding available from governments.

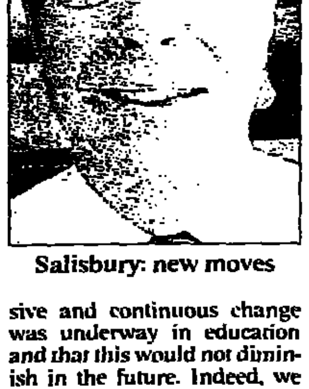
Rising expectations of schools inevitably mean that running them will become more costly. For example, our recent Ofsted report glibly stated that, in order fully to meet Government guidelines on the teaching of IT, we should provide a much better ratio of modern PC machines throughout the school. In a school which has worked ceaselessly to raise extra money for hardware, comment such as this certainly sticks in the craw.

So what is to be done for financial survival in the next century? Of course everyone hopes that future governments will see sense and fund education properly, but until then what can schools do to ensure that youngsters do not have their life chances harmed? Many of the pragmatic strategies now being seen in schools are surely unsustainable in the long term.

Take, for instance, the trend towards rising class sizes. Not only is this bad news educationally, but there are limits to how far it can continue. Put bluntly, it just might be possible to teach 30, perhaps even 35, but even the very best performers would surely capitulate when the numbers topped 40 or 50.

Given that funding will continue to decline, a more radical approach to the way our organisations are structured will be needed.

Eight years ago in my school we realised that massive and continuous change was underway in education and that this would not diminish in the future. Indeed, we felt the rate of change would increase and its precise direction was unpredictable. Our traditional hierarchical pyramid with its three deputies, senior teachers and heads of faculty was both expensive and slow and did not use fully the talent and expertise of all staff. Layers of management were removed, access given to all information, people empowered to make decisions and a risk-taking culture encouraged. Sustained inertia was seen as the only crime.



Salisbury: new moves

Some of the money released from this restructuring was used to fund specific projects and staff were rewarded for leading these initiatives.

The main reason behind this philosophy was to establish a quick-response, entrepreneurial culture which motivated and excited people and which made use of all of the talent and skill in the organisation.

Reducing overall staffing costs was an added bonus and in an era of declining funding, we need to question how much longer schools can continue to operate with massive hierarchies. I regularly come across schools whose average staffing costs have risen to £8,000 per person, per year.

The payment of annual increments to teachers, often rewarding time in the job rather than actual performance of it, has a crucial bearing on staffing costs. Perhaps spot salaries with additional remuneration for specific projects has to be the harsher way for the future.

What also is the future for national pay agreements? Health authorities have repeatedly demonstrated the tensions surrounding national agreements which take no account of the employer's ability to pay.

At the moment we are just managing these tensions, but for how long? What is certain is that in order to sustain development and to keep equipment levels up to date, many schools will have to move more into the financial "self help" world. It will be more commercial, will entail new skills, new flexibilities and the ability to think up imaginative schemes which will bring mutual benefits and generate new profit.

This may seem a gloomy picture with 35,000 schools, national and international charities, local worthy causes and other public sector organisations all competing for scarce resources, but what is the alternative?

Let us hope a future government will see the sense of investing properly in education. Everyone says a problem is not solved by throwing money at it — I, for one, wouldn't mind giving this solution a try!

● *The author is the head of Garibaldi School, Mansfield.*

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Further details

These may be obtained from The Head, John Dunston, Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading, RG2 7DH (Tel: 0118 987 2065. Fax: 0118 986 6959) to whom application should be made by 16 May 1997.

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Further details and application forms from: Mrs Angela Alderman, Head of the County Audiology Service, Educational Audiology Centre, Priory Road, St Austell PL25 5AB. Telephone: (text and voice) (01726) 61004/Fax: (01726) 63803.

Interviews: 12 and 13 May 1997.

Closing date: 2 May 1997.

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Intending applicants should write for further particulars of the post to:

The Clerk to the Governors
Lady Eleanor Holles School
Hanworth Road, Hampton
Middlesex TW12 3HF

The closing date for applications is Friday, 16 May 1997.

Founded 1553

King Edward's School, Witley Godalming, Surrey (HMC, Co-Education, Boarding and Day, 500 pupils)

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The Governors of King Edward's School invite applications for the post of Bursar, to be responsible for the finances, business administration and property of the school. Management of the school estate and of domestic affairs is delegated to the Estates and Administrative Bursars, who report to the Bursar.

The successful applicant will have a proven record in financial planning, budgeting and control and will, in particular, be required to oversee the selection and installation of a new computer system soon after taking up the appointment in September 1997.

Full particulars of the post may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary, King Edward's School, Witley, Godalming, GU8 5SG (telephone 01428-682572). Applications by letter with full c.v. and the names of two referees should be addressed to The Secretary to the Chairman at the school. Closing date for applications is 12th May.

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Applications should be sent to the Senior Tutor, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, by Friday 16 May 1997. Applicants should ask three referees to send confidential references direct to the Senior Tutor by the same date. Further particulars, including details of stipend and other benefits, may be obtained from the College Secretary (tel: 01865 277823). We would welcome approaches from firms or organisations which might be interested in half-time secondment of suitably qualified and experienced lawyers.

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Candidates will be expected to have proven senior experience in finance and administration and should be fully conversant with accounting methods involving information technology.

Further details of the post are available from The Clerk to the Governors, Yarm School, The Friarage, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees, TS15 9EJ.

The closing date for applications is 9th May 1997.

Yarm School is a registered charity for the purpose of providing education: Number 507290

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Bursar

The Governors of the Fettes Trust invite applications for the post of Bursar, who will have overall responsibility for the finances, administration and property of the school. The successful applicant will have a proven record of good administration, introduction of business systems, financial management and the control and management of projects. The candidate should be computer literate and used to the preparation of budgets and monitoring the results.

Applications (to be lodged by 9th May 1997) accompanied by C.V. and the names and addresses of two referees, to the Clerk to the Governors of the Fettes Trust, 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3LX (Tel: 0131 220 2345) from whom particulars of the of the position may be obtained.

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Michael Calvin on a testing return to Imola for Frank Williams

Romantic driven by willpower

FRANK WILLIAMS comes as close as he dares to regarding Imola as his spiritual home. He feeds off the fervour of the Ferrari fans, finds solace in the humanity of the occasion. Yet, at the San Marino Grand Prix this weekend, he will be treated like a celebrity defendant. It will be a distasteful experience, the ultimate irony in a life that is a mass of contradictions.

The owner of Formula One's principal team is a sensitive man, though notorious for his ruthlessness. By nature an impulsive character, he has learnt to supress emotion. His agile brain, trapped in a paralysed body, appreciates the dichotomy between his romantic racer's instincts and his manipulative inclinations as the most astute of dealmakers.

Those inconsistencies can be distilled into two portraits, to which one's eyes are irresistibly drawn in his light, airy office at the team's factory in Grove, in the Oxfordshire countryside. The first, on a wall to the right of his large, specially-adapted desk, is an almost ethereal sketch of Ayrton Senna. He is depicted looking down on the Williams-Renault FW16, the car in which he lost his life at Imola in 1994.

'I had a love of speed and couldn't control it'

The second, enclosed in a silver frame, is an unremarkable photograph of Senna driving the car. It is a mundane motor racing image, but all the more affecting because of that. Williams invested much, perhaps too much, of himself in Senna, and though he is too self-contained to admit it, the suspicion remains that his loss, in his car, remains an open wound.

Weakness has been anathema to Williams since the accident in a hire car, returning to Nice airport from a test session in 1986, that consigned him to a wheelchair. Occasionally his piercing green eyes, which are hooded and red-rimmed, betray the pain, but he detaches himself from his plight, which would have overwhelmed lesser men.

"I had a love of speed and couldn't control it," he says, referring with brutal simplicity to his accident. "That's why I'm like this." So, in the context of his response to his disability, the trauma of the trial of Williams and five others, on manslaughter charges arising from Senna's death, is manageable. The sympathy of the motor racing community, expressed most eloquently by Max Mosley, the president of the International Motor Sport Federation, the global governing body for all forms of motor sport, is appreciated, but ultimately unnecessary.

"I know what I am going to have to deal with this weekend," Williams admitted before his departure yesterday. "People will be constantly asking me about the issue, but, with the trial going on, I will be unable to make any comment. That's the truth of the situation. All I will say is that, when the trial is at an end, Ayrton will still be dead. Nothing will bring him back, and that is sad, so sad.

"The trial causes considerable worry, and certainly weighs on my mind, but, speaking personally, I have no problem going to Imola or racing in Italy. I'll just get on with my job. I won't be able to enjoy the weekend, but I do love it there. I always have, from the Sixties, when I used to pester Reuters for results from tracks like Enna. The fans deliver something extra to a race. They're knowledgeable, boisterous, exuberant. They're motor racing fanatics."

Williams's body language is restricted as he speaks, because he is propped upright to maintain his circulation, but his face is alive. Those who portray him as a sour, Machiavellian figure underestimate the nature of his passion, fostered as a teenager at boarding school in Scotland, where he followed the Ecurie Ecosse team.

"I have an almost juvenile love of racing," he said. "I love the sights, the sounds and the smells of a race weekend. I love the drivers. They're special men in special machines. I have my heroes. I can still remember going to Brands Hatch in 1957, seeing Stirling Moss, and just standing there, unashamedly staring at him."

Williams, the fan, merges with Williams, the team owner, when he discusses the emergence of Jacques Villeneuve. He makes diplomatic noises about the stuttering progress of Villeneuve's team-mate, Heinz-Harald Frentzen — "I've great faith in his ability to deliver" — but speaks with genuine relish about the potential of the championship leader.

MIKE HEWITT

Face value: Williams's strength of character has helped him to cope with adversity

"I can't say that, when I first met Jacques, I told myself: 'Wow, this guy has got it.' I couldn't say, 12 months ago: 'Yes, this guy is a world champion.' But he has stepped up a gear this winter. What really impresses me is the way he just turns up and whacks in the fastest time. He delivers immediately. I see a driver totally in control of himself and his car.

"He is very young and very interesting. He views things so differently from me — it's a generational thing — but I recognise that need to win, that fire in his belly. He has got all the attributes of a champion. He is self-disciplined, open-minded, tough and intelligent."

Villeneuve is also unafraid to speak his mind, referring last week to the proposed rule changes for 1998 as "a joke". Williams is more circumspect — "whatever regulations they have for us, we'll be there" — but stresses the need for the sport to evolve. He views complacency, collective or individual, as a cardinal sin.

"Heaven knows what shocks are awaiting us," he said, looking ahead to the European Formula One season. "I don't subscribe to the view that we [Williams] are inevitably superior. This is an incredibly competitive business and I see the writing on the wall in thick, blood-red letters. Ferrari took pole at Imola last year and, with the greatest respect to Eddie Irvine, had Michael Schumacher been in his car in the last race at Buenos Aires, he would have beaten Jacques."

Another contradiction. The merest hint of defeat is seductive. So, when will Frank Williams lose his love for Formula One? "When the coffin lid closes," he answered. "Then they can take me to Silverstone, find some consecrated ground near Abbey Curve, and stick me in there. I'll be as happy as Larry."

Sisters steering way to success in man's world

Mel Webb meets the Simmonites, who are making their mark in motor rallying

The air was rent with a banshee howl of barely bridled power and the Ford Escort did not so much accelerate away as launch itself like a four-wheeled missile. It was a bleak, monochrome late winter's morning in the flatlands of Essex but, for Stephanie Simmonite, it might have been the middle of summer, so sunny was the outlook.

Stephanie is the driving half of a sister act that sounds like a troupe of circus trapeze artists, but is a good deal more down to earth than that. In a sporting arena that drips with testosterone-loaded machismo, the amazing Simmonite sisters have taken on the men and beaten them.

Stephanie, 27, and Rachel, 23, the co-driver, finished fourth in the British rally championship last year, have won the women's class for the past two years and are going for a hat-trick this year in an Escort that shares little more than its name with the car in which they won the title last season.

The car is more powerful and much faster than the 1996 version but, in Stephanie's hands, its raw mechanical muscle becomes a precision instrument. They won the women's class in the Rally of Wales, the first event of the season, by three minutes, which in rallying terms constitutes victory by a medium-length street. Forget that sexist saw about them being quite good — for women. They are darned good, full stop.

The Simmonites are a pair of no-nonsense Yorkshire lasses who carry within their lightweight frames a mother lode of case-hardened competitive toughness. They continue their campaign this weekend, in the two-day Pirelli International rally in Cumbria.

The sisters are a fascinating mix. Stephanie is the taller and stronger, bright and fast-talking; Rachel is petite and sassy with a nice line in slightly self-deprecating one-liners. It is a combination that works with the precision and quiet efficiency of a Swiss watch.

They have been around machinery ever since they could walk. "Dad wanted boys and he ended up with us two, but that didn't seem to deter him," Stephanie said. "We had motorbikes, then we moved up to a three-wheeled motorbike and finally to cars, one of which I rolled one day. I tried one handbrake turn too many and it tipped up on me."

They graduated to rallying through competitive off-roading and, as soon as Stephanie became 17, she passed her driving test and made a bee-line for an off-road vehicle. Stephanie needed a co-driver for the Welsh Hill rally in 1992; enter Rachel. They won, of course. Their parents bought Stephanie a course at a rally school, at which she won a scholarship to drive in a rally in Dubai. The bug had bitten.

Understanding parents funded the sisters for two years in a Peugeot 205 and their progress was almost frighteningly rapid. They won the women's title, got a drive in a works Honda in 1995 and joined Ford last year. Every year there have been huge lessons to learn, but they have taken each advance in their stride. They are not the boastful kind but, at the same time, they know how good they are.

They describe themselves as "best friends", but are not afraid to describe the other's weaknesses. Rachel, for example, has respect for her big sister's driving ability, but also thinks that Stephanie is a bit of a show-boater on the quiet. "If there were spectators on every corner she'd be quicker than everybody," she said. Stephanie smiled, but did not argue.

They are comfortable with their comparatively new-found fame. They were recently at Buckingham Palace with other sporting people to meet the Queen, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward and, at the end of the same week, they were in Oldham handing out prizes to bus drivers. You cannot get much nearer to either end of the celebrity scale.

The fact that they came into rallying together is both an advantage and disadvantage. Most of the other promising young drivers in the championship have experienced co-drivers to point the way, but the Simmonites are learning together. "Mind you, it's a strength as well," Stephanie said. "In ten years' time, the time we spend together now will have been very valuable."

Ten years' time? Will they still be rallying in ten years? "We'd do it for ever if the sponsorship was still there," Rachel said. "But you have to stop and have kids some time."

"It's easy for the men," her sister said, and laughed at the suggestion that the fellows could do their bit and leap back into the car. "Why on earth are we talking about kids, anyway?" Rachel said. "We haven't even found husbands yet." When they do, there will be no prizes for guessing who will do the driving.

Champions: Stephanie, left, and Rachel Simmonite

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Last week's Refresher on discarding showed how important it is for a defender to keep the same number of cards as dummy in any long suit. Equally important, although more difficult to do, is to keep parity with declarer's long suit.

Dealer South **East-West game**

North:
♠ Q 9
♥ A 10 9 5 4 3 2
♦ 6
♣ 9 7 5

West:
♠ J 10 8
♥ K Q J
♦ 9 8 7 4
♣ K 3 2

East:
♠ 8 5 3 2
♥ 8 6
♦ 5 2
♣ Q J 10 8 6

South:
♠ A K 7 4
♥ 7
♦ A K Q J 10 3
♣ A 4

W	N	E	S
—	—	—	2 D
Pass	2 H	Pass	2 S
Pass	3 H	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 D	Pass	6 D
All Pass			

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: nine of diamonds

South has the strength to open Two Clubs, but for space considerations it is better to open an Acol Two Diamonds if that bid is available. The sequence Two Clubs — Two Diamonds — Three Diamonds pushes the auction uncomfortably high. It is correct for North to bid Two Hearts. A reasonable suit is all you need to respond with two of a major to Two Clubs or Two Diamonds. You need a better hand to respond at the three level.

On a non-trump lead declarer could have ruffed a spade in the dummy but on the actual lead he had no choice but to run his long suit and hope the opponents discarded foolishly.

On the first four diamonds West followed and East discarded two clubs. On the fifth trump West threw a club and East a heart. Now declarer played a heart to the ace and a heart from the dummy. East was in some difficulty, with the choice of discarding a club from Q J 10, or a small spade. As South had bid spades, East knew he must keep equal length with him, so he unguarded the club. Now declarer had to lose a spade and a club, one down.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DUBBS
a. An oil process
b. Voice-over
c. Sports clothing

CUNIBERTI
a. A Runic script
b. Ligurian pasta
c. A naval architect

LOOSE LINER
a. A shipping problem
b. A football groundsman
c. An artillery component

WANKEL
a. An Alpine plant
b. Alcoholic drink
c. An engine

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Continuing deadlock

For the fourth game of his match last year against IBM's Deep Blue computer, Kasparov sought to dynamite his way through the black defences, sacrificing rook for bishop. Nevertheless, Deep Blue's renewed display of excellence in calculation of precise tactical variations once again thwarted Kasparov's efforts to land a direct hit. The score was now two points each, with just two games to go. Last Saturday (April 19), I gave the fifth game, in which Kasparov finally broke the deadlock to move one game ahead. On Monday I will give the sixth and final game of the Man v Machine encounter of last year and also make my predictions for their forthcoming clash, starting on May 3 in New York.

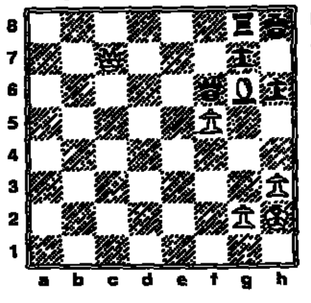
White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Deep Blue
Philadelphia, 1996

Semi-Slav Defence

1	Nf3	d5
2	d4	c6
3	c4	e6
4	Nbd2	Nf6
5	e3	Nbd7
6	Bd3	Bd6
7	e4	Nxe4
8	Nxe4	dxe4
9	Bxe4	0-0
10	0-0	h6
11	Bc2	e5
12	Re1	exd4
13	Qxd4	Bc5
14	Qc3	a5
15	a3	Nf6
16	Be3	Bxe3
17	Rxe3	Bg4
18	Ne5	Re8
19	Rae1	Be6
20	f4	Qc8
21	h3	b5
22	f5	Bxc4
23	Nxc4	bxc4
24	Rxe8+	Nxe8
25	Re4	Nf6
26	Rxc4	Nd5
27	Qe5	Qd7
28	Rg4	f6
29	Qd4	Kh7
30	Re4	Rd8
31	Kh1	Qc7
32	Qf2	Qb8
33	Ba4	c5
34	Bc6	c4
35	Rxc4	Nb4
36	Bf3	Nd3
37	Qh4	Qxb2
38	Qg3	Qxa3
39	Rc7	Qf8
40	Ra7	Ne5
41	Rxa5	Qf7
42	Rxe5	fxe5
43	Qxe5	Re8
44	Qf4	Qf6
45	Bh5	Rf8
46	Bg6+	Kh8
47	Qc7	Qd4
48	Kh2	Ra8
49	Bh5	Qf6
50	Bg6	Rg8

Draw agreed

Diagram of final position

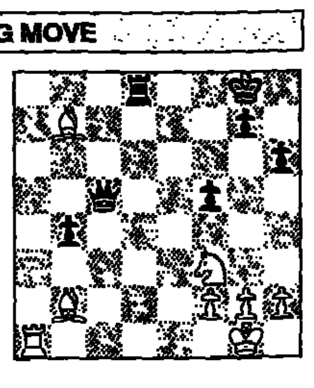


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Pelletier — Van der Werf, Cannes 1997. This position features the unusual material balance of three minor pieces against a queen. If White can organise his forces he should be able to put up stiff resistance. However, Black found a clever way to end the game immediately. What did he play?



Solution on page 50

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York 10 Cincinnati 2; Colorado 7 Florida 3; San Francisco 4 Atlanta 3; Montreal 4 Chicago 3, Pittsburgh 3 Philadelphia 2; Los Angeles 2 St Louis 1; Houston 11 San Diego 7

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 11 Boston 7, New York 10 Milwaukee 5; Chicago 11 Baltimore 9 (10inns); Texas 2 Detroit 1; Oakland 6 Minnesota 1; Anaheim 5 Toronto 4 (10inns); Kansas City 12 Seattle 10

BOWLS

SYDNEY: Mazda Jack High internationals singles tournament (round robin) Section A: D Gourlay (Scot) bt I Taylor (Aus) 9-8, 9-7; R Brassey (NZ) bt R Dunn (Aus) 9-2, 9-3; S Glasson (Aus) bt Gourlay 9-6, 9-7. Section B: K Walsh (Aus) bt C Anderson (Norfolk Island) 9-8, 9-4; K Kerkow (Aus) bt N Burkett (SA) 9-6, 7-9, 9-5.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three): Worcester: Leicestershire 208 (C D Crowe 50, J E Brinkley 5-60); Worcestershire 165-3 (D A Leatherdale 61 not out). Uxbridge: Middlesex 247 (S P Moffat 105; U Afzaal 4-31), Nottinghamshire 53-1. Taunton: Sussex 217; Somerset 157-2 (S C Ecclestone 76 not out)

SCHOOLS MATCH: *Eton 228-2 dec, I Zingan 180-3, Shrewsbury 207-4 dec, *Wrekin 153 * denotes home side

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, second legs: Juventus 4 Ajax 1 (Juventus win 6-2 on agg); Manchester United 0 Borussia Dortmund 1 (Dortmund win 2-0 on agg)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Derby County 0 Nottingham Forest 0; Leicester City 0 West Ham United 1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Crystal Palace 3 Reading 2; Wolverhampton Wanderers 1 Grimsby Town 1

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Gateshead 2 Stevenage 2

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final replay: Celtic 0 Falkirk 1 (at Ibrox).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Buxton 0 Hyde 3

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Raunds 0 Rothwell 4, Solihull Boro 3 Corby 3. Southern division: Dartford 0 Margate 3, Fareham 2 St Leonards 2

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry 3 Inter Cable-Tel 0; Caernarfon 3 Newtown 0, Ebbw Vale 4 Aberystwyth 0

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fort William 3 Nairn County 1, Huntly 2 Deveronvale 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 3 Ipswich 0, Bournemouth 0 Cardiff 0; Millwall 0 Luton 1, Norwich 1 Crystal Palace 1; Portsmouth 1 Bristol City 1; Southampton 1 Bristol Rovers 2; Wimbledon 4 Swindon 2

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Oldham 0 Leeds 1, Sheffield Wed 2 Birmingham 1; Stoke 3 Bolton 2. First division: Notts County 0 Aston Villa 4; West Bromwich 3 Sunderland 2. Second division: Bradford 1 Shrewsbury 1; Stockport 1 Carlisle 0. Third division: Darlington 1 Chesterfield 1; Lincoln 2 Bury 0; Rochdale 2 Chester 1; Walsall 3 Wigan 0.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Wick 4 Three Bridges 0

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Handrahan Timbers 3 Bilston Community College 0, Kings Heath 2 Worcester 2; Studley BKL 6 West Midland Fire Service 0.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 11 West Auckland 0; Crook 0 Whitby 1, Durham 3 Easington 3, Guisborough 4 RTM, Newcastle 0.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Wisbech 6 Watton 1.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Harry Sunderland Shield: Leyton County 2 Clapham 1

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division: London Colney 2 Letchworth 2

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Hamptonians 7 C Manning OB 1; Old Vaughanians 1 Old Aloysians 2

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: China 0 South Korea 2 (in Beijing).

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL: Italy 2 England 0

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Goodhand Cup Final: Barnsley 0 Sheffield 1. English schools girls' under-16 Vimto Trophy: Final: Montgomery High School, Lancashire 2 Archbishop Grimshaw, West Midlands 1. Inter-county: Kent 2 Inner London 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup: Play-offs: Eastern Conference: New York Rangers 3 Florida 2 (New York lead best-of-seven series 3-1); Pittsburgh 4 Philadelphia 1 (Philadelphia lead 3-1); Ottawa 1 Buffalo 0 (OT) (series tied 2-2)

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford 28 Halifax 26.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: West Hull 10 Dudley Hill 17; Woolston 52 Mayfield 7.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Postponed: Leeds v Bradford; Wigan 54 Salford 12.

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Sale 41 London Irish 25. Fourth division north: Aspatria 8 Kendal 11

SQUASH

ODENSE: Dunlop European team championships: First qualifying round: Men: Pool A: England 3 Germany 1; Wales 3 Sweden 1. Pool B: Scotland 2 France 2; Finland 4 Spain 0. Pool C: Holland 4 Greece 0. Pool D: Denmark 4 Austria 0. Pool E: Belgium 4 Portugal 0; Ireland 4 Iceland 0. Pool F: Switzerland 3 Italy 1; Luxembourg 3 Hungary 1. Women: Pool A: England 3 France 0; Scotland 2 Denmark 1. Pool B: Germany 3 Finland 0; Holland 3 Switzerland 0. Pool C: Ireland 2 Wales 1; Belgium 2 Austria 1. Pool D: Sweden 2 Spain 1; Italy 2 Norway 1

SPEEDWAY

KING'S LYNN: British under-21 championship: 1, L Lanham 14pts; 2, L Richardson 13; 3, S Nicholls 12

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Poole 73 Eastbourne 17

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Hull 59 Sheffield 31.

TABLE TENNIS

MANCHESTER: World championship: Men: Category one: Group B: Sweden 3 Slovakia 1. Category two: Group F: Togo 3 Ukraine 2. Group G: Ireland bt Iceland 3-1 (Ireland names first: C Slevin bt K Briem 21-8, 11-21, 21-10; J Cowan bt G Stephensen 21-13, 21-18; S Spelman lost to A Hardarson 20-22, 18-21; Slevin bt Stephensen 21-14, 21-13); Turkey bt Sudan 3-0. Group H: Armenia 3 Lebanon 0. Group I: Algeria 3 Lithuania 1; Indonesia 3 Azerbaijan 0. Group J: Australia 3 Ghana 0. Women: Category one: Group C: North Korea 3 Taiwan 0. Category two: Group E: Mexico bt Ireland 3-2 (Ireland names first: T Bollard lost to B Hernandez 21-18, 17-21, 19-21; A Glover bt M Miramontes 21-10, 22-20; B Lane bt T Diaz 21-13, 21-15; Glover lost to Hernandez 17-21, 17-21; Bollard lost to Miramontes 18-21, 21-18, 17-21). Group H: Croatia bt Scotland 3-0 (Scotland names first: S Hurry lost to E Agenovic 15-21, 11-21, L Anderson lost to S Jurinec 11-21, 9-21, L Robb lost to A Bakula 15-21, 12-21). Group I: Finland 3 Ghana 0; Singapore 3 Latvia 0. Group J: Turkey 3 Mongolia 0; Czech Republic 3 Venezuela 0. Group O: Poland w/o Tanzania scr.

TENNIS

MONACO: Men's tournament: Second round: C Moyà (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-1, 4-6, 6-1. Third round: M Rios (Chile) bt A Costa (Sp) 7-6, 6-4; M Larsson (Swe) bt D Vacek (Cz) 7-5, 6-0; A Corretja (Sp) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 4-6, 7-6, 6-0; F Santoro (Fr) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

ORLANDO, Florida: Men's tournament: Second round: A O'Brien (US) bt K Carlsen (Den) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; C Woodruff (US) bt O Gross (Ger) 7-5, 7-6, G Stafford (SA) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-2, 6-3, F Meligeni (Br) bt M Rodriguez (Arg) 6-4, 6-2.

BOURNEMOUTH: Spring satellite tournament (GB unless stated). Men: First round: J Delgado bt B Cowan 6-0, 6-2, N Coutelot (Fr) bt P Robinson 6-4, 7-6; M MacLagan bt A Foster 6-4, 6-2; S Barron (Ire) bt M Bok (Holl) 6-4, 7-6. Women: Second round: J Pullin bt A Wainwright 6-7, 6-3, 6-1; C Taylor bt L Ogan 6-7, 7-5, 6-3

POOLS DIVIDEND

VERNONS: Treble chance 24pts £104.90, 23 £7.65 (two dividends only). Super shots £81.50. Premier 10 (paid on nine correct) £238.00.

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

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Mees Pierson

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1997 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
25 APR	CRESCO INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES LTD	ROTHERHAM	40
25 APR	WASTE OILS LTD	HURLSTON HALL	25
26 APR	LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES EXCHANGE	HATFIELD LONDON COUNTRY CLUB	50
28 APR	CARNAUD METALBOX CLOSURES PLC	YEOVIL	27
29 APR	WEDLAKE BELL	SUNNINGDALE	30
30 APR	ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TOBACCO SPECIALISTS	COPT HEATH	24
30 APR	BARCLAYS BANK SOUTH EAST REGION	KINGSWOOD	100
30 APR	GLAMALCO LTD	CELTIC MANOR	40
30 APR	PDFM LIMITED	SUNNINGDALE	45
1 MAY	CREDIT AGRICOLE	WENTWORTH	20
1 MAY	GENERALE DES EAUX	THE BELFRY	96
1 MAY	HARVEST AGRICULTURAL	HELLIDON LAKES	16
1 MAY	N H S WALES	CELTIC MANOR	100
1 MAY	N I C S SPORTS ASSOCIATION	ROCKMOUNT	70
2 MAY	CAMERASCAN CCTV LTD	DUMMER	40
2 MAY	JPS (OFFICE SUPPLIES) LTD	MOOR PARK	40
2 MAY	PINEWOOD PRINT	MILLRIDE	45
2 MAY	PRINT AT THE BULL LTD	HESKETH	16
2 MAY	THE VIRTUAL OFFICE GROUP	CASTLE ROYLE	30

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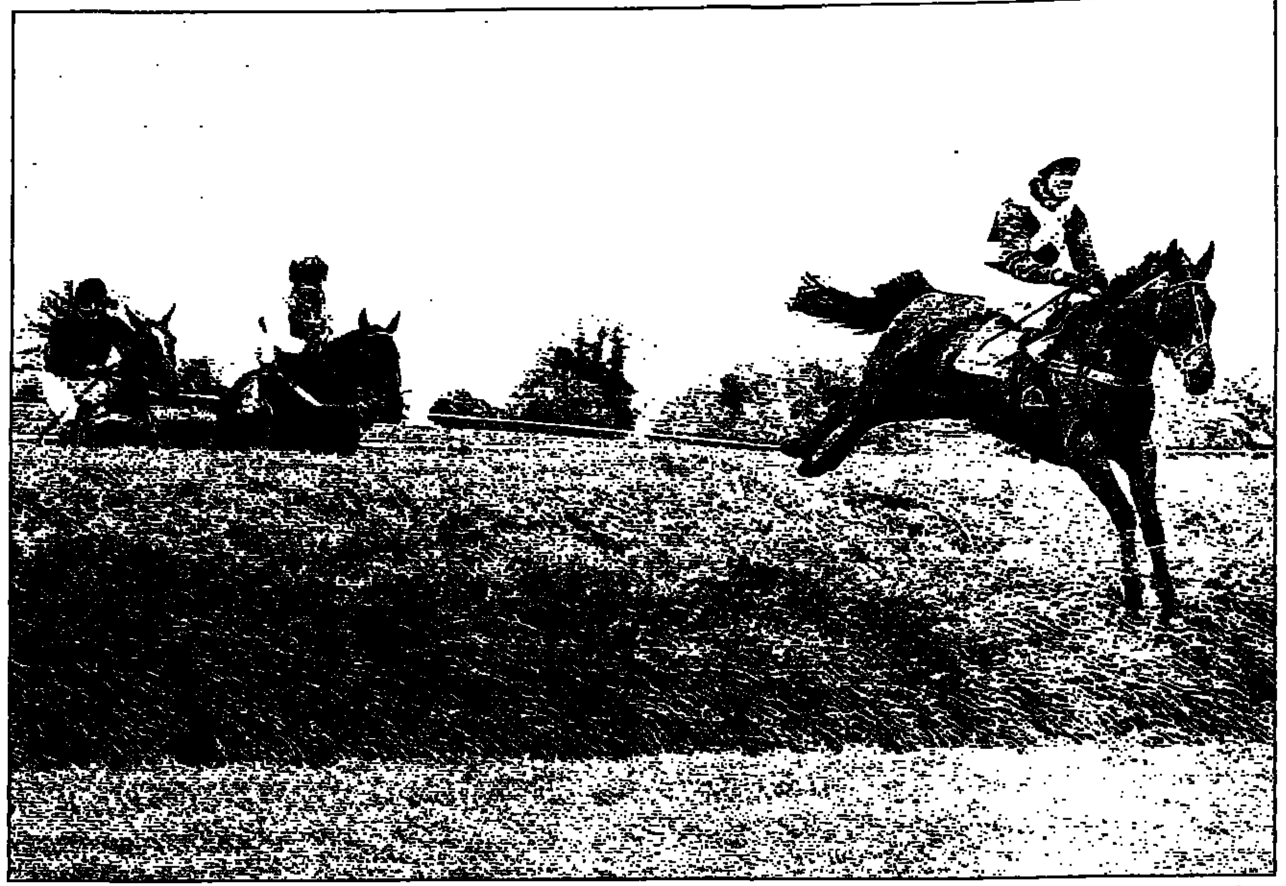
3 ACCESS THE INTERNET SITE ON http://www.golftoday.co.uk/timescorpgolf/

National Final shown on sky sports

RACING: SEAN CONNERY-OWNED CHASER GIVES EXHILARATING DISPLAY IN CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

Risk Of Thunder licensed to thrill

Andrew Longmore on a Punchestown chase that fosters its own folklore


JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Risk Of Thunder, ridden by Bolger, clears the bank on his way to an impressive victory at Punchestown yesterday

Trust the Irish to write a lyrical poem about it. *"With no time to reflect if your seat is correct, Riding theories can burst like a bubble. Just ram home your feet and forget your right seat. When you're riding the Punchestown Double."*

Like Becher's Brook, the Punchestown Double fosters its own folklore. Jumping it is a rite of passage for all aspiring young riders, besides providing a guarantee of a lifetime's tall stories and a few free drinks on a quiet night at the local.

Legend has it that a horse owned by the Baron de Roebeck took one look at the much-vaunted Double and jumped clean over in one stride. Lesser animals have to negotiate their way as best they can, fiddling a stride here, sliding out on their back legs in an undignified scramble only wizened old hunters would countenance.

After a relentless gallop to victory yesterday, Risk Of Thunder is writing his own chapter about the race called the Quinns of Baltinglass Steeplechase, but known far and wide simply as the La Touche. That he is owned by the original 007 himself, Sean Connery, only adds to the lustre of story.

Connery was unable to be at Punchestown yesterday, but his purchase of Risk Of Thunder with the help of the ubiquitous J P McManus reflects an old-fashioned love of racing and a passion for a challenge. Had 007 been a jockey, he would have tackled the La Touche, probably in bow tie and dinner jacket and smoking a cigar.

In his absence, Enda Bolger did a fair impression of an armchair ride. It helps, he said, that he knows his way around the 33 fences.

"There are so many twists and turns, you need a compass," he said. "But it helps that I have been riding round here for 15 years." For the last three, he has ridden Risk Of Thunder to victory with an increasing degree of comfort.

Yesterday, the margin between him and Digacre at the finish was 15 lengths, but the race was all but over a mile from home. Risk Of Thunder produced such a prodigious leap over Ruby Walsh, the imitation bank built two years ago in front of the stands, that cheers turned to gasps. No bank is supposed to be treated with such disdain.

"I've never known a horse to jump like that," Bolger said. "The enthusiasm and gift he has for these fences is extraordinary.

"He's electric. You would have to ride him to explain, but it's just a great feeling to be riding him and it's great for the race because we need runners for this race." The new cross-country course at Cheltenham has been modelled on Punchestown. But the race, tucked away in November, has not yet been fully accepted in England. "Donkey derby" it was christened after the inaugural running two years ago, an affront to the purity of National Hunt racing and a danger to horse and rider.

In Ireland, the La Touche is regarded as rather more than a wacky sideshow. This is the heart of National Hunt racing and rightly there is more than a doff of the cap to Percy La Touche, a banker who was born and raised locally, who bought up all the small farms at Punchestown and preserved them for jumping. Before La Touche, the race was run over the farmers' lands, through ditches, over walls and hedges. Something of that spirit remains today.

The La Touche, which celebrated its 200th anniversary three years ago, is the second race on the final day of the biggest National Hunt festival in Ireland. It is the race many here regard as the highlight of the whole meeting. Not many jumps have a poem all to themselves.

A few more displays like yesterday and Risk Of Thunder will be immortalised in rhyming verse himself. The eight-year-old is beginning to capture the imagination of the Irish people in much the way Danoli has on a wider scale. "On an ordinary park course, *he is very ordinary. But show* him the banks and he improves three stone." Bolger added. "He's just an amazing horse."

At the Double Bank, taken both ways, uphill first and downhill second, Risk Of Thunder skipped onto the top of the six-foot bank and was away before the rest had found their feet.

It was quite a spectacle as the uncertain tail-enders skidded off the top like skiers out of the starting gate, and jockeys *shut their eyes and hung on* for dear life.

The next target for Risk Of Thunder is the Pardubicka, the great race run in the Czech Republic every October. That too has a ferocious reputation and a wealth of legend attached to it, which will not frighten horse or jockey one iota. As the poem says: *"Ram home your feet and forget your right seat, When you're jumping the Punchestown Double"*.

First Island can make winning return to action

FINDING a suitable entry for a high-class older horse is often fraught with complications. But Geoff Wragg, who trains **First Island**, can have afforded a wry smile when he scrutinised entrants for the Sandown Mile (3.10) — to be shown live on Channel 4 this afternoon.

Bin Rosie and Beauchamp King tackle First Island in unfavourable circumstances. Bin Rosie lacks the skills of Frankie Dettori, while Beauchamp King's Craven Stakes defeat of Alhaarth is a memory 12 months distant.

The equation is complicated by the 6lb penalty that First Island shoulders for his emphatic Sussex Stakes victory. But he should still be good enough to concede the weight. Wixim, a lightly-raced and improving colt, may pose the biggest threat, though he would prefer a softer surface.

So the path looks clear for First Island to pick up where he signed off last term — *with victory in a valuable* event in Hong Kong. He has been galloping with enthusiasm on Newmarket Heath and his fine record immed*iately after the winter recess* further fuels his chance.

Mollers Racing, which owns First Island, can reap a further dividend with **Greenaway Bay**, a son of Green Dancer who tackles the Tudor Conditions Stakes (2.35).

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KOMI
(2.35 Sandown Park)
Next best: Influence Pedler
(7.05 Ascot)

Fascinating though it is, this contest lacks appeal as a betting medium. The Henry Cecil-trained Harry Wolton is promising, yet to judge from riding arrangements, the unraced Military is the *preferred candidate* from Warren Place.

Latalomne silenced decent opposition at Nottingham and this Derby entrant could be anything, while Komi oozed promise on his first outing two weeks ago. After a troubled passage, Romanov narrowly bettered lesser opponents last month and this Nureyev colt should be better served by this faster surface.

Desert Horizon looks a rugged sort, but Greenaway Bay, who overcame extreme inexperience to torment modest opposition on his debut, is open to incalculable improvement.

SANDOWN PARK
CHANNEL 4

2.05: Sun In The Morning is preferred to Fayrana but this looks destined for one of the newcomers. Kieren Fallon is an interesting booking for Blarney Park, while strong juvenile stables like Mick Channon and Richard Hannon are also represented. However, recent events lend encouragement for the prospects of **Patsy Culsyth.** She hails from a yard whose first juvenile runner, Occhi Verdi, ran out an impressive winner at Ripon.

2.35: see above

3.10: see above.

3.40: Northern Fleet should go well despite the maximum impost — he is one of the few still progressing. Shadirwan won handsomely on his reappearance last season and is reunited with Richard Quinn. However, he looks harshly handicapped and **Jamaican Flight** *is preferred. He is fit from hurdling and starts the campaign on a reasonable mark.*

ASCOT
BBC2

5.30: Merlins Dream should be hard to beat with Robert Thornton aboard. At these weights, Danger Baby has *prospects after finishing* within 4½ lengths of the selection at Towcester, but that line may prove misleading. Auto Pilot and Drumcullen may be compromised by their lengthy absences.

Wragg: found opening

6.00: Serious came down when poised to challenge on this course two weeks ago. He can underline his misfortune by accounting for I'm A Dreamer, Albemine and Dancing Paddy — respectively first, third and fourth in that event. This is a tougher heat, however, and **Darakshan,** an improving sort, looks well handicapped. John Drumm is progressing and looks a big danger.

6.30: Boots N All looks worth following off his present rating. He handles fast ground and reopposes Cardinal Rule, his four-length Hereford conqueror in February, on 14lb better terms. With Prerogative seemingly anchored by top weight, Sleazey has better place prospects.

JULIAN MUSCAT

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.05 Daunting Lady
2.35 Harry Wolton
3.10 First Island
3.40 Shadirwan
4.10 **ALHAWA** (nap)
4.45 Ukraine Venture
5.20 Splicing

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Komi. 3.10 First Island. 4.45 **ALCALALI** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.05 ALBERT MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,566: 5f) (15 runners) C4

101	(13)	0	AFTER DAWN 14 (One Over The Eight) Mrs P Dutfield 8-11	J Quinn	–
102	(1)		BLARNEY PARK (Blarney Park Racing Club) C Dwyer 8-11	K Fallon	–
103	(15)		DAUNTING LADY (T Dale) R Hannon 8-11	Pat Eddery	–
104	(6)		FAST TEMPO (Mrs M Palling) B Palling 8-11	T Sprake	–
105	(11)	6	FAYRANA 14 (Racegoers Club Owners Group (1997)) J Hills 8-11	R Hills	–
106	(14)	5	FLEET LADY 13 (H Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 8-11	S Drowne	–
107	(7)		LISA'S PRIDE (A Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 8-11	S Sanders	–
108	(5)		MISS HIT (B Lowrey) M Channon 8-11	R Hughes	–
109	(2)		PATSY CULSYTH (Forsyth Culty Racing) M Johnston 8-11	J Weaver	–
110	(12)	0	PHONE ALEX 6 (J B R Leisure Ltd) R Hannon 8-11	Dane O'Neill	–
111	(3)		SHALABELLA (Mrs J Fisher & Mrs T White) M Channon 8-11	T Quinn	–
112	(9)		SILENT PRIDE (Miss D Kerr) M Usher 8-11	M Roberts	–
113	(8)	0	SUN IN THE MORNING 6 (D Powell) B Meehan 8-11	B Doyle	–
114	(10)		TUNDRA (N Kersey) K McAuliffe 8-11	J Reid	–
115	(4)		UNIVERSAL LADY (Universal Conference Trv Ltd) C James 8-11	M J Kinane	–

BETTING: 4-1 Miss Hit, 5-1 Daunting Lady, 11-2 Patsy Culsyth, 7-1 Fayrana, 10-1 Lisa's Pride, 12-1 Blarney Park, Phone Alex, Shalabella, Sun In The Morning, 14-1 others.

1996: SABOTINI 8-11 Pat Eddery (3-1) B Hills 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

DAUNTING LADY (foaled Mar 5, cost 12,500gns). Second foal by Mujadil; dam, daughter of half-sister to dam of Mystiko, 7f winner. FAYRANA 8¾l 6th of 14 to Dim Ots in auction maiden at Nottingham (5f, good to firm) with AFTER DAWN (3lb worse off) 7¼l 11th. FLEET LADY about 13½l 5th of 7 to Rising Of The Moon in novice race at Warwick (5f, good to firm). SHALABELLA (Feb 25, 16,500gns). Third foal by Shalford: dam, half-sister to useful juvenile Showbrook, modest maiden in Ireland. SUN IN THE MORNING 7¼l 7th of 12 to Supreme Angel in auction maiden at Newbury (5f, good to firm) with PHONE ALEX 2¾l 11th.
TUNDRA (Apr 7, 14,500gns). Half-sister by Common Grounds to Look And Like, 6f-1m winner in France and Germany; dam, half-sister to very smart French sprinter Gem Diamond, 1m 2f winner in France.
No selection

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Spearing	4	16	25.0	Pat Eddery	53	237	22.4
J Dunlop	20	95	21.1	J Weaver	9	51	17.6
M Johnston	9	43	20.9	M J Kinane	9	51	17.6
J Gosden	20	99	20.2	Dane O'Neill	9	61	14.8
D Loder	7	36	19.4	T Quinn	24	176	13.6
H Cecil	13	70	18.6	J Reid	22	185	11.9

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ludlow: 5.45 Just Andy, Theme Arena. Perth: 2.45 Lyford Cay, 3.50 Farelame, Maple Bay. Taunton: 6.05 Just For A Reason, More Bills, Prince Equiname. 6.35 Mozemo.

2.35 TUDOR CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,855: 1m) (7 runners) C4

201	(4)	41-	DESERT HORIZON 176 (D,S) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 9-0	T Quinn	92
202	(5)	1	GREENAWAY BAY 25 (F) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 9-0	M Hills	86
203	(7)	21-	HARRY WOLTON 219 (F) (Old Road Securities Plc) H Cecil 9-0	W Ryan	88
204	(6)	1	LATALOMNE 17 (D,F) (Maktoum al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	M J Kinane	88
205	(1)	1	ROMANOV 27 (S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	91
206	(2)	2	KOMI 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-10	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
207	(3)		MILITARY (Thoroughbred Corporation) H Cecil 8-7	K Fallon	–

BETTING: 3-1 Romanov, 4-1 Military, Latalomne, 11-2 Desert Horizon, 6-1 Harry Wolton, 8-1 others.

1996: REGAL ARCHIVE 9-0 J Reid (3-1) P Chapple-Hyam 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

DESERT HORIZON beat Jaunty Jack ½l in maiden at Nottingham (1m, soft). GREENAWAY BAY beat The Negotiator 3½l in maiden at Kempton (7f, good to firm). HARRY WOLTON beat Cinnamon 1¼l in maiden at Yarmouth (7f, good to firm). LATALOMNE beat Shawm 2l in maiden at Nottingham (1m, good to firm). ROMANOV beat Mushtarak neck in maiden at Haydock (7f, soft). KOMI neck 2nd to Shewat in maiden at Newmarket (7f, good).
Selection: KOMI

3.10 SANDOWN MILE (Group II: £35,945: 1m) (8 runners) C4

301	(7)	112351-	FIRST ISLAND 138 (D,F,G) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 5-9-6	M Hills	98
302	(4)	5-44346	GOTHENBERG 22 (D,F,G) (B Yeardley Ltd) M Johnston 4-9-4	J Weaver	90
303	(1)	22030-5	ACHARNE 9 (D,S) (Parrot Racing) C Brittain 4-9-0	B Doyle	92
304	(5)	153400-	BEAUCHAMP KING 244 (D,F,G,S) (E Penser) J Dunlop 4-9-0	J Reid	94
305	(8)	321123-	BIN ROSIE 201 (B,D,G) (W Said) D Loder 5-9-0	T Quinn	97
306	(2)	201100-	CENTRE STALLS 174 (CD,F,G,S) (A Pye-Jeary) R J-Houghton 4-9-0	S Sanders	[illegible]
307	(3)	134043-	ROYAL PHILOSOPHER 139 (D,F,S) (A Miller) J Hills 5-9-0	R Hills	88
308	(6)	2113-2	WIXIM 9 (D,F) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 4-9-0	Pat Eddery	96

BETTING: 5-4 First Island, 4-1 Bin Rosie, Wixim, 7-1 Beauchamp King, 12-1 Centre Stalls, 14-1 others.

1996: GABR 6-9-0 W Carson (13-2) R Armstrong 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

FIRST ISLAND beat Seascay ¾l in 12-runner group II Hong Kong International Cup at Sha Tin (1m 1f, good to firm). GOTHENBERG about 12½l 8th of 13 to Tamayaz in conditions race at Nad Al Sheba (AW, 1m 2f). BEAUCHAMP KING 15l last of 7 to Halling in group I Coral Eclipse Stakes at Sandown (1m 2f, good to soft) on penultimate start. BIN ROSIE 4l 3rd of 10 to Alhaarth in group II Prix du Rond Point at Longchamp (1m, good to soft) with CENTRE STALLS (3lb worse off) 7l 8th. WIXIM 2l 2nd of 11 to Ali-Royal in group III Earl of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket (1m 1f good) with ACHARNE two necks and 1¼l 5th.
Selection: FIRST ISLAND (nap)

3.40 HEATHORNS BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP (£4,947: 2m 78yd) (8 runners) C4

401	(2)	234125-	NORTHERN FLEET 35J (D,G) (Racing For Pleasure) Mrs A Perrett 4-10-0	Pat Eddery	94
402	(7)	100005-	SHADIRWAN 98J (D,F,G,S) (C Bait) R Akehurst 6-9-12	T Quinn	91
403	(5)	1203-33	ETTERBY PARK 13 (BF,F,S) (Mr & Mrs G Middlebrook) M Johnston 4-9-6	J Weaver	97
404	(4)	45043-0	UNCHANGED 27 (D,F,S) (M Simmonds) C Brittain 5-9-5	M Roberts	95
405	(6)	405132-	JAMAICAN FLIGHT 25J (D,F) (P Lamyman) C Smith 4-8-9	J Fortune	90
406	(1)	40400-5	SHARAF 15 (F) (D Deer) W Muir 4-8-6	J Reid	[illegible]
407	(3)	-301212	SOOJAMA 15 (B,BF,D,F,G) (M Rogers) R Flower 7-8-2	S Drowne	94
408	(8)	0361234	COLERIDGE 13 (B,BF,D,F,G,S) (P Sheehan) J Sheehan 9-7-12	M Henry (3)	90

BETTING: 11-4 Etterby Park, 7-2 Unchanged, 5-1 Shadirwan, 13-2 Northern Fleet, Soojama, 10-1 others.

1996: DARTER 4-8-7 S Sanders (9-2) R Akehurst 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORTHERN FLEET neck 2nd of 18 to Fujiyama Crest in handicap at Ascot (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, with ETTERBY PARK (1lb better off) about 10l 8th. SHADIRWAN about 10¾l 6th of 9 to Sea Victor in handicap at Chester (2m 2f 117yd, good to firm). UNCHANGED 9½l 7th of 10 to Inchcailloch in handicap at Kempton (2m, good). JAMAICAN FLIGHT 6l 2nd of 8 to Candle Smoke in apprentice jockeys' handicap at Folkestone (2m 93yd, good to firm). SHARAF about 10l 5th of 7 to Turnpole in conditions race at Hamilton (1m 4f, good to soft). SOOJAMA 1½l 2nd of 7 to Cob Sho No in handicap at Folkestone (1m 7f 92yd, firm).
Selection: NORTHERN FLEET

4.10 ATHLONE RATED HANDICAP (£6,220: 1m) (14 runners)

501	(5)	02/114-	SAMARA 307 (BF,D,F,G) (Aylesfield Farms Stud Ltd) J Dunlop 4-9-7	Pat Eddery	92
501	(7)	-634230	PATER NOSTER 34 (D,F,G,S) (New Window Factory) J A Harris 8-9-3	Paul Eddery	95
503	(13)	00050-0	STONE RIDGE 34 (D,F,S) (Mrs C Harrington) R Hannon 5-9-3	Dane O'Neill	97
504	(4)	211130-	GIVE ME A RING 202 (D,F,G) (G Reed) C Thornton 4-9-2	D McKeown	95
505	(11)	456003-	STAR MANAGER 181 (CD,G,S) (M Arbib) P Cole 7-9-1	T Quinn	91
506	(12)	020231-	POMONA 178 (D,G) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 4-9-0	M Roberts	96
507	(9)	5-42341	STAR TALENT 13 (D,F,G,S) (R Michaelson) I Balding 6-8-12	R Cochrane	92
508	(10)	060300-	WAKEEL 185J (D,F,S) (Mrs J Churston) S Dow 5-8-11	J Reid	91
509	(11)	022-450	NIGHT WINK 35 (D,F,G) (Mrs D Benjamin) G L Moore 5-8-10	S Whitworth	94
510	(14)	04-1503	RAKIS 21 (BF,C,F,S) (P Shorrock) Mrs L Stubbs 7-8-8	K Fallon	[illegible]
511	(3)	0000-61	NIGHT DANCE 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (RMOA) K Morgan 5-8-8	R Ffrench (5)	94
512	(8)	006000-	ALHAWA 195 (D,F,G) (The Money Men) R Akehurst 4-8-7	S Sanders	91
513	(2)	22316-0	AMBER FORT 48 (V,S) (Caledonian Racing Soc) D Elsworth 4-8-7	D Griffiths (3)	93
514	(6)	10000-0	THERHEA 35 (D,S) (R Gudge C Lewis, M Calvert) B Millman 4-8-7	T Sprake	89

Long handicap: Alhawa 8-6, Amber Fort 8-5, Therhea 8-5

BETTING: 11-2 Alhawa, 6-1 Samara, 7-1 Night Dance, 8-1 Star Manager, Star Talent, 10-1 Give Me A Ring, Pomona, 12-1 others

1996: STAR MANAGER 6-8-7 M Hills (10-1) P Cole 18 ran

4.45 APRIL MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,994: 1m 2f) (12 runners)

601	(11)	0-	ALCALALI 174 (L Norris) P Kelleway 9-11	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
602	(6)	0-	ALIFANDANGO 190 (M Rees) A Stewart 8-11	M Roberts	–
603	(5)	2-	GO FOR SALT 239 (S Hanson) M Stoute 8-11	J Reid	80
604	(8)	0-	LA CURAMALAL 174 (Baron G von Ullmann) G Wragg 8-11	M Hills	–
605	(1)	33-	LEADING NOTE 167 (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 8-11	O Urbina	80
606	(4)	3-	QUEST FOR BEST 239 (T Tatham) J Gosden 8-11	G Hind	75
607	(2)	02-	SHOUK 266 (Fittocks Stud Ltd) L Cumani 8-11	R Ffrench (5)	81
608	(12)		BOOK AT BEDTIME (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 8-7	T Quinn	–
609	(10)		DIVINITY (S Manana) C Brittain 8-7	B Doyle	–
610	(7)		ROCKY DANCE (L Fust) A Jarvis 8-7	W J O'Connor	–
611	(3)		SILANKKA (S Legg and Partners) M Channon 8-7	R Perham	–
612	(9)		UKRAINE VENTURE (Dr F Chao) S Woods 8-7	W Ryan	–

BETTING: 3-1 Go For Salt, 4-1 Shouk, 6-1 Leading Note, 7-1 Alcalali, Quest For Best, 8-1 La Curamalal, 14-1 Alifandango, Divinity, 20-1 others.

1996: QUOTA 8-7 Pat Eddery (11-8 fav) H Cecil 14 ran

5.20 BOW STREET HANDICAP (£5,129: 5f) (17 runners)

1	(5)	00021-0	LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 35 (CD,F,G,S) (Elite RC) M Heaton-Ellis 9-10-0	M Roberts	95
2	(10)	0505-13	EASTERN PROPHETS 7 (D,F,S) (Mrs J Purches) G Lewis 4-9-10	Paul Eddery	95
3	(6)	20000-0	MR BERGERAC 7 (CD,F,G,S) (P John) B Palling 6-9-7	T Sprake	96
4	(16)	3151-25	ELLENS LAD 8 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Harrington) R Hannon 3-9-0	Pat Eddery	94
5	(13)	22100-2	GONE SAVAGE 8 (CD,F,G,S) (The Square Table) W Musson 9-9-0	R Cochrane	96
6	(4)	011-214	CIM BOM BOM 25 (V,D,F,G,S) (Y Birol) M Bell 5-9-0	G Faulkner (5)	[illegible]
7	(7)	5000-00	SWEET MAGIC 7 (CD,F,G) (C Hammond) P Howling 6-9-0	F Norton	93
8	(11)	04126-0	LONGWICK LAD 25 (F) (Mrs M Wickham) W Muir 4-8-13	J Reid	93
9	(15)	-024382	BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 25 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Hunt) D Chaw 7-8-11	K Fallon	98
10	(12)	000430-	SPLICING 168 (D,G,S) (T Hirschfeld) W Haggas 4-8-9	M Hills	96
11	(3)	0-55020	DANDE FLYER 6 (D,F,G) (Dandelion Dist Ltd) D Arbuthnot 4-8-9	S Whitworth	95
12	(17)	210024-	LITERARY SOCIETY 198 (D,F,G) (Lady Celina Carter) J Toller 4-8-8	S Sanders	90
13	(2)	400001-	HIGH DOMAIN 168 (D,G,S) (S Borsberry) J Spearing 6-8-7	S Drowne	93
14	(8)	540-115	RIFIFI 55 (BF,D) (Brooknight Guarding Ltd) R Ingram 4-8-5	A McGlone	96
15	(1)	4004-00	MINDRACE 25 (D,F) (D Abbott) K Ivory 4-8-3	Martin Dwyer (3)	91
16	(14)	4260-54	POINTER 17 (BF,F,S) (In For The Crack) Mrs P Dutfield 5-7-10	J Quinn	92
17	(3)	334221-	HALF TONE 254 (B,CD,F) (Mrs G Temmerman) R Flower 5-7-10	J Lowe	89

BETTING: 7-1 Eastern Prophets, Splicing, 9-1 Lord High Admiral, Mr Bergerac, Ellens Lad, 10-1 Gone Savage, Cim Bom Bom, 12-1 others

1996: MISTER JOLSON 7-8-8 R Cochrane (100-30 fav) R Hodges 17 ran

ASCOT

THUNDERER

5.30 Garrylough
6.00 John Drumm
6.30 Boots N All
7.05 Summer Spell
7.35 Sublime Fellow
8.05 No Pattern

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

5.30 BET WITH THE TOTE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,290: 3m 110yd) (12 runners) BBC2

1	221121	MERLINS DREAM 25 (D,F,G) (W Watt) O Sherwood 8-11-11	R Thornton (3)	90
2	2601F4	GARRYLOUGH 41 (D,F,G,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 8-11-9	C Bonner (3)	[illegible]
3	P01112-	AUTO PILOT 524 (D,F,G,S) (S Transport) N Henderson 9-11-6	C Vigors (5)	94
4	3UP5U2	BIG BEN DUN 69 (D,F,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 11-10-13	E James (7)	85
5	4003P5	DONT TELL THE WIFE 13 (CD,G,S) (Elite Racing) C Egerton 11-10-13	J Goldstein (7)	97
6	3021U0	HARRISTOWN LADY 25 (B,D,F) G Balding 10-10-11	L Jefford (7)	93
7	211214	DRUMCULLEN 162 (D,F,G) (M Booth) K Bailey 8-10-7	R Wakley (7)	80
8	633-553	NEVADA GOLD 67 (D,F,G,S) (G Parker) F Yardley 11-10-6	Mrs C Ford (7)	85
9	452PP2	DIAMOND FORT 27 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Stocks) J McConnochie 12-10-5	–	85
10	UP6532	DANGER BABY 16 (D,F,G,S) (Mouse Racing) D Williams 7-10-1	S Durack (7)	95
11	21/UP/F	NEW GHOST 31 (V,S) (G Giddings) G Giddings 12-10-0	O Ellwood (7)	–
12	65/P40/	FIGHT TO WIN 692 (D,F,G) (B Partridge) L Grassick 9-10-0	J Grassick (7)	–

BETTING: 9-4 Merlins Dream, 5-1 Garrylough, 6-1 Big Ben Dun, 7-1 Diamond Fort, 8-1 Drumcullen, Nevada Gold, 10-1 others

1996: VICOSA 7-10-0 P Henley (6-1) R Alner 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

MERLINS DREAM beat Lay It Off 3l in 8-runner handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good to firm) with DANGER BABY (8lb better off) 4½l 3rd and HARRISTOWN LADY (3lb better off) 72½l 8th. GARRYLOUGH 22l 4th of 7 to Disco Des Mottes in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good). AUTO PILOT 1¾l 2nd of 6 to Run Up The Flag in handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good). BIG BEN DUN 12l 2nd of 6 to Equity Player in handicap chase at Windsor (3m, good). DRUMCULLEN beat Paper Star 8l in 7-runner handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good) on penultimate start. NEVADA GOLD 14l and head 3rd of 10 to Poucher in handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with DIAMOND FORT (3lb better off) pulled up before 15th.
DIAMOND FORT ½l 2nd of 4 to Fortunes Course in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: MERLINS DREAM

6.00 WOODROW WYATT HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,623: 2m 110yd) (9 runners) BBC2

1	31F204	DANCING PADDY 13 (CD,F,G,S) (Bychance Racing) K C-Brown 9-12-0	B Powell	87
2	03-220F	SUIVEZ 223 (CD,F,G,S) (A Peake) Mrs N Macauley 7-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	92
3	210363	ALBEMINE 13 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Cecil) Mrs J Cecil 8-10-13	T Kent	94
4	241342	MARIUS 34 (BF,S) (Mrs A Andrews) J Gifford 7-10-7	P Hide	98
5	052101	JOHN DRUMM 13 (CD,F,G,S) (A Jenkins) P Webber 6-10-7	J Osborne	97
6	1-01F	SERIOUS 13 (D,BF,F) (T and D Lousada) K Bailey 7-10-6	N Williamson	95
7	531001	I'M A DREAMER 13 (CD,F,G) (Miss M Rowland) Miss M Rowland 7-10-3	R Thornton (3)	93
8	322311	DARAKSHAN 51 (F,G,S) (M Watt) Miss H Knight 5-10-0	J Culloty	[illegible]
9	1FFF11	MONNAIE FORTE 25 (D,G,S) (J R Adam) J Adam 7-10-0	L Aspell (3)	87

BETTING: 11-4 Darakshan, 9-2 Serious, 5-1 John Drumm, 6-1 Albemine, 7-1 Monnaie Forte, 8-1 I'm A Dreamer, 10-1 others

1996: SUIVEZ 6-10-5 P Hide (4-1) Mrs N Macauley 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

SUIVEZ best recent effort neck 2nd of 9 to Ivy Edith in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). MARIUS 2½l 2nd of 3 to Tickerty's Gift in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to firm). JOHN DRUMM beat Fairly Sharp 2½l in 7-runner novice handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm). I'M A DREAMER beat Faustino 1¾l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm) with ALBEMINE (3lb better off) 6l 3rd, DANCING PADDY (3lb better off) 2l 4th and SERIOUS (1lb better off) fell 3 out. DARAKSHAN completed double beat Zander ½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). MONNAIE FORTE beat Well Appointed 4l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good).
Selection: JOHN DRUMM

6.30 TOTE DIRECT NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,891: 2m 3f 110yd) (7 runners) BBC2

1	6-41351	PREROGATIVE 185 (F,G,S) (Secret Partners) G L Moore 7-11-10	A P McCoy	84
2	31115P	CARDINAL RULE 44 (D,G,S) (P Burch) Miss V Williams 8-11-1	N Williamson	94
3	0F4240	SPRING TO GLORY 23 (F,G) (A Byrne) P Hayward 10-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	88
4	2302PP	RYTON RUN 13 (F,G) (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 12-10-6	D Gallagher	80
5	602251	BOOTS N ALL 10 (F) (Mrs T Tipper) G Balding 7-10-1 (4ex)	B Fenton	[illegible]
6	064212	SLEAZEY 11 (BF,F) (J G O'Neill) J G O'Neill 6-10-0	S Curran	90
7	0PF4F4	EAU SO SLOE 34 (Mrs J Druce) J Poulton 6-10-0	J Magee (3)	–

Long handicap: Sleazey 9-12, Eau So Sloe 8-13

BETTING: 7-4 Boots N All, 7-2 Prerogative, Sleazey, 5-1 Cardinal Rule, 12-1 Spring To Glory, 14-1 Ryton Run, 16-1 Eau So Sloe

1996: FLAPJACK LAD 7-9-12 D Walsh (11-2) N Twiston-Davies 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

PREROGATIVE beat Elite Governor 12l in 6-runner novice chase at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, firm). CARDINAL RULE best recent effort beat Super Ritchart 13l in 15-runner novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, soft).
SPRING TO GLORY best recent effort 5l 2nd of 5 to Tickerty's Gift in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). RYTON RUN best recent effort 16l 2nd of 6 to Qurtz A Man in novice handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to firm). BOOTS N ALL beat Decyborg 7l in 7-runner novice handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). SLEAZEY 1¾l 2nd of 11 to Dr Rocket in conditional jockeys' handicap chase at Southwell (2m, good). EAU SO SLOE about 7½l 4th of 6 to Buckland Lad in novice handicap chase at Lingfield (2m, good to firm).
Selection: BOOTS N ALL

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	18	69	26.0	J Culloty	4	10	40.0
Miss H Knight	5	20	25.0	R Johnson	6	24	25.0
M Pipe	16	75	21.3	J Osborne	29	117	24.8
O Sherwood	12	69	17.4	A P McCoy	17	70	24.3
K Bailey	8	56	14.3	C Llewellyn	12	68	17.6

7.05 TOTE MOBILE TERMINAL NOVICES HURDLE (£3,485: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1	321	EAU DE COLOGNE 35 (D,F) (D Evans) Mrs L Richards 5-11-5	M Richards	87
2	0	HIGHTECH TOUCH 69 (Mrs J Stuart Evans) L Grassick 7-11-0	Mr J Grassick	63
3	P00/	MASRUR 1287 (J Castle) J Castle 8-11-0	L Harvey	–
4	6120	INFLUENCE PEDLER 21 (D,G) (Miss S Blumberg) J Old 4-10-12	C Llewellyn	88
5	31534	SUMMER SPELL 22 (F) (W Robins) N Henderson 4-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
6		BAY LOUGH (G Luck) R Rowe 6-10-9	Mr J Luck (7)	–
7	0/00-00P	JAIME'S JOY 167 (Roe Racing) G Roe 7-10-9	Martin Smith (7)	–

BETTING: 13-8 Summer Spell, Influence Pedler, 7-2 Eau De Cologne, 16-1 others.

1996: DJAIS 7-11-10 S Fox (7-4) J Jenkins 7 ran

7.35 TOTE BOOKMAKERS NOVICES CHASE (£5,037: 2m) (3 runners)

1	146113	SUBLIME FELLOW 22 (D,F,G) (R McGrath) N Henderson 7-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
2	051111	INDIAN JOCKEY 6 (D,F,G,S) (S M Mercer) M Pipe 5-11-3	A P McCoy	91
3	65U22P	FULL SHILLING 4 (G Farr) D Williams 8-11-2	Mr S Durack (7)	51

BETTING: 4-5 Indian Jockey, 6-5 Sublime Fellow, 16-1 Full Shilling

1996: NEMURO 8-11-10 P Hide (10-11 fav) D Elsworth 6 ran

8.05 TOTE CREDIT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,061: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1	2-12210	SECRET SPRING 20 (D,BF,F,G) (M George) P Hedger 5-12-0	M Clinton (7)	96
2	02-14P1	SOUNDS LIKE FUN 48 (D,F,G) (Mrs H Brown) Miss H Knight 6-11-1	J F Titley	95
3	11515P	WOTTASHAMBLES 43F (D,F) (Dream On Racing) L Montague Hall 6-10-11	D Morris	92
4	31	RIPARIUS 23 (D,G) (Mrs D Blackburn) P Webber 6-10-11	J Osborne	88
5	6-3136P	NO PATTERN 22 (B) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-10-5	D Gallagher	[illegible]
6	400232	FOXES LAD 23 (BF) (Mrs C Fox) D Nicholson 6-10-5	R Johnson	90
7	0113	JOVIE KING 25 (D,F,G) (F M Reid) R Buckler 5-10-0	B Powell	88
8	44PU1	ABSOLUTE LIMIT 15 (F) (B Wootton) J Gifford 5-10-0	P Hide	83
9	P000-00	THE BIZZO 53 (J Parvert) J Parvert 6-10-0	P Henley (3)	–

Long handicap: Jovie King 9-11, Absolute Limit 9-7, The Bizzo 7-0

BETTING: 11-4 No Pattern, 7-2 Foxes Lad, 4-1 Sounds Like Fun, Secret Spring, 8-1 Riparius, 9-1 others.

1996: PHAR FROM FUNNY 5-10-7 B Fenton (8-1) G Balding 9 ran

Horgan injured

TREVOR HORGAN, knocked unconscious when Corket fell at Punchestown on Wednesday, was yesterday reported "semi-conscious and severely concussed" in the Beaumont Hospital in Dublin by Irish Turf Club medical officer, Dr Walter Halley.

"Scans and X-rays reveal no spinal injury," Halley said. "He will be stood down for some weeks."

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SNOOKER

White's nights of Crucible battles could be at an end

By Phil Yates

THE Embassy world championship without Jimmy White is like the Open Championship without Jack Nicklaus, but the possibility exists that the player most synonymous with Crucible Theatre heartache will be missing from the event 12 months hence.

White's 10-9 defeat by Anthony Hamilton late on Wednesday, after a gripping first-round tussle, guaranteed his relegation from the game's top 16 after a 15-year spell.

Unthinkably, White, six times the runner-up at the championship but never the winner, will be required to negotiate a qualifying match in order to return next year. In addition, he must also qualify for the final stages of all overseas world ranking tournaments.

White's third failure to clear his opening hurdle in 17 visits to the Crucible was a fitting culmination to a season in which he has suffered personal, financial and professional turmoil. While still coming to terms with the death of his brother and, a few months later, his mother, White was declared bankrupt over an Inland Revenue debt.

He lost his first 11 outings of the campaign and, after an unexpected defeat at the hands of Dylan Leary at the Regal Welsh Open in January, he slipped to 36th in the provisional standings. Appearances in the quarter-finals of the International Open and the last 16 of the European Open and Thailand Open in recent weeks suggested that his best form of the year could coincide with his arrival in Sheffield, but that did not transpire.

When White artistically constructed a 125 clearance on the way to leading 6-3, then moved 8-4 ahead, a second-round match against John Parrott beckoned, but Hamilton then outscored him 351-31 in winning the next four frames to level at 8-8.

In the decider, White led 37-13, but, in escaping a snooker, he presented Hamilton with a clear opportunity. Capitalising to the full, he constructed a 54 break to earn a top 16 place of his own.

The loser's cheque for £9,450 swelled White's total prize-money for 1996-97 to £68,475. That represents the poorest remuneration that he has received for a season since turning professional after becoming world amateur champion in 1980.

"I'm convinced Jimmy will bounce straight back into the top ten: he's hitting the ball as well as ever: he just needs a bit of self-belief again," Hamilton said, offering words of encouragement. However, it remains to be seen whether White will return from snooker's lengthy summer recess thinking quite so positively.

White: elite no longer

Steve Davis, a contemporary of White who is holding back the tide of youth to greater effect, believes that a fitness regime would be of immense benefit for the player with whom he battled for supremacy throughout the 1980s. "Looking at Jimmy, I think that could be a solution," Davis said. "It's helped me enormously and it could do the same for him.

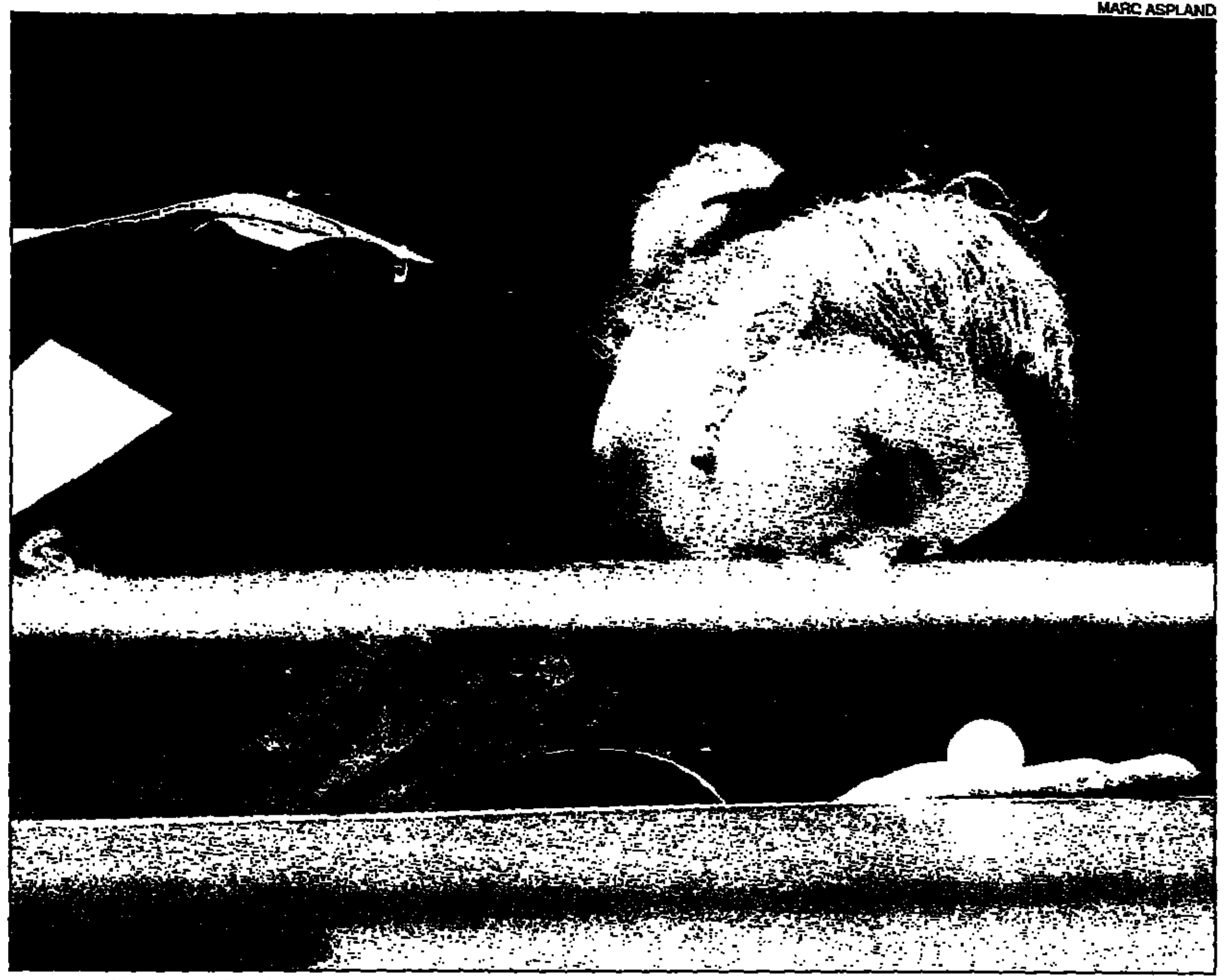
"As you get older, you have to use anything you can to stay up there. There's nothing wrong with his game, his temperament or his approach, so he's got to look at what else there is. Being fit doesn't make you pot more balls, but it makes you feel better."

James Wattana, the No 12 seed, was fully extended before edging past Graeme Dott 10-9. Wattana, from Thailand, who compiled a 53 break in the decider to seal victory after Dott had missed a tricky red to a middle pocket, goes forward to face Stephen Lee, the conqueror of Nigel Bond.

Leading 7-4 and 51-0 in the twelfth frame, Wattana was cruising. Dott, 19, the youngest competitor in the final stages of the championship this year, stole it on the blue and forged 8-7 ahead, but, as the finishing line drew closer, he became increasingly prone to unforced errors.

The second round got under way yesterday, with Lee Walker and Alan McManus sharing the first of their three sessions 4-4.

RESULTS: First round (best of 19 frames): A Hamilton (Eng) bt J White (Eng) 10-9. J Wattana (Thai) bt G Dott (Scot) 10-9. D Dale (Wales) leads A Drago (Malta) 5-4. Second round (best of 25): A McManus (Scot) level with L Walker (Wales) 4-4



MARC ASPLAND

Cecilia Ozer, of Belgium, prepares to serve during her first-round defeat by Galina Melnik, of Russia

Syed offers reasons to be cheerful

By Richard Eaton

RARELY has a sporting story offered as many twists and sub-plots as did the opening day of the world table tennis championships in Manchester yesterday. With 44 tables often in simultaneous use, three players in the world's top ten were beaten, Sweden's hopes of regaining the men's team title suffered a scare and two fine wins for Matthew Syed helped England to an encouraging 3-1 win over the Czech Republic as they began their campaign for survival in the top group of the 108-nation tournament.

Ding Song, the defensive-minded world No 7 from China, was sensationally beaten by Robert Smrekar, of Slovenia, but there was still never a likelihood of the world champions being beaten; England's women were beaten 3-1 as Lithuania avenged themselves for their defeat in the last world championships in Tianjin; and two well-known brothers suffered a rare contrast in fortunes. You needed eyes in the back of your head to keep up with it all.

Jean-Michel Saive, the world No 1 only 15 months ago, was beaten twice as Belarus threatened to upset the powerful Belgians, but the younger Philippe Saive, so often overshadowed by Jean-Michel, enjoyed two big wins, one of them against the most-improved player of 1996, the world No 4, Vladimar Sampsonov, and Belgium sneaked home 3-2. They are good enough to cause anyone problems.

Sweden won 3-1, but this match nearly went the full distance. The coach, Ulf Carlsson, is so concerned to rest his brilliant but ailing stars that he risked leaving out both the former Olympic champion, Jan-Ove Waldner, and the former European bronze medal-winner, Peter Karlsson. One of the replacements, Thomas Von Scheele, lost, and another, Kayode Kadiri, almost did, threatening to allow the match to go rather shakily to a final encounter. Fortunately for them, Jorgen Persson, the former world champion, was in solid form, winning twice.

While the defeat for England's women was disappointing, with Lisa Lomas, the former European championship silver medal-winner, looking uncomfortable and losing twice, Syed, last week's winner of the Commonwealth men's championship, was determinedly effective, as was Alan Cooke, the runner-up in the Commonwealth tournament, looping his top-spins energetically to beat Josef Plachy. Syed outmanoeuvred the fierce-hitting Richard Vyborny and the Olympic semi-finalist, Petr Korbel. It was a good start, but there is still a long way to go to ensure survival.

IN BRIEF

O'Leary is called up by England

DAREN O'LEARY, the Harlequins wing, yesterday became the fifteenth uncapped player in the 30-strong England rugby union party for the six-match tour of Argentina next month..

Jack Rowell, the England coach, named 29 players last week and opted for O'Leary to fill the final wing place on the basis of his 26 tries this season. He was first included in the England squad in 1993, but has made only one England A appearance.

Bowls: David Gourlay, from Prestwick, faced two of Australia's best bowlers, winning one match and losing another, at the Mazda Jack High international tournament, in Sydney, yesterday. Gourlay started with a straight-sets victory over Ian Taylor, but was then beaten 7-9 by Steve Glasson, a 28-year-old greenkeeper.

Squash: England's women look set for a 20th successive win in the Dunlop Europe team championships in Odense, Denmark, today after defeating Holland 3-0 in the first semi-final yesterday. The England men also progressed safely to a semi-final against Finland today.

Motor rallying: The course for the RAC Rally this year will be the shortest in the history of the event. The rally, which has been reinstated as a world championship event, runs from November 23-25 and will omit the gruelling Kielder Forest section in the Scottish Borders, which claimed many leading contenders in 1996.

Basketball: Mike Burton, of Chester Jets, became one of the few Englishmen to be named coach of the year when the Budweiser League made its annual awards yesterday. John White, of Leopards, was named the most valuable player in the league.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

2.20 Timekeeper. 2.55 Perilous Plight. 3.25 Spanish Verdict. 4.00 Not Forgotten. 4.30 Count Tony. 5.05 *Mister Westsound.*

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: **5.05 GREY KINGDOM.**

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 TALBOTS MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,106: 5f) (9 runners)

1 BLACK JET N Littmoden 9-0 T G McLaughlin 4
2 *OH NEVER AGAIN M Johnston 9-0 J Fanning 7*
3 PRIX STAR C Fairhurst 9-0 L Charnock 8
4 THANKS KEITH J J O'Neill 9-0 G Duffield 2
5 2 TIMEKEEPER M Bell 9-0 M Fenton 9
6 TINDAYA P Evans 9-0 A Culhane 6
7 *UP THE CLARETS J J O'Neill 9-0 J Carroll 5*
8 MALOZZA P Evans 8-9 J F Egan 3
9 NGAERE PRINCESS W Kemp 8-9 J Bramhill (5) 1

7-4 Timekeeper, 5-2 Oh Never Again, 5-1 Thanks Keith, 7-1 others.

2.55 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,598: 6f 206yd) (13)

1 -051 HIGH PREMIUM 23 (D,F,G,S) R Fahey 9-9-7 R Winston (7) 1
2 0-03 PALACEGATE TOUCH 8 (B,CD,F,G) J Berry 7-9-7 P Roberts (5) 2
3 532- BROCTUNE GOLD 169 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-3 A Culhane 3
4 0/4- KEMO SABO 27J (G,S) C Parker 5-8-1 F Lynch (3) 5
5 000- BELDRAY PARK 227 (S) Mrs A King 4-8-13 A Clark 8
6 /00- DESERT CAT 317 M Wane 4-8-13 J Carroll 9
7 *330- FISIOSTAR 214 (B) M Dods 4-8-13 C Teague (3) 12*
8 4300 PERILOUS PLIGHT 20 (D,F,G) Mrs L Stubbs 6-8-13 J F Egan 7
9 00 MOST RESPECTFUL 16 Denys Smith 4-8-9 L Charnock 13
10 *00-0 THE WAD 8 (F,G) D Nicholls 4-8-9 Alex Greaves 6*
11 00 SAMSTOIRY 16 Miss L Perratt 7-8-7 J Fanning 4
12 *00-0 CLASSIC VICTORY 42 (V,F) I Campbell 4-8-3 R Price 11*
13 6-00 DIET 11 (V,D,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 11-8-3 G Duffield 10

3-1 Palacegate Touch, 4-1 High Premium, 9-2 Broctune Gold, 7-1 The Wad, 8-1 Kemo Sabo, Perilous Plight, 10-1 others

3.25 OLD CAPTAIN'S HOUSE HANDICAP
(£3,551: 7f 214yd) (12)

1 600- TERTIUM 198 (D,F) M Wane 5-10-0 J Carroll 12
2 3-00 CLASSIC LEADER 13 I Campbell 4-9-10 R Price 4
3 3-00 ROYAL RESULT 25 (D,F) T Barron 4-9-8 D Harrison 2
4 *U30- QUILLING 174 (F) M Dods 5-9-5 F Lynch (3) 1*
5 10-0 CELEBRATION CAKE 14 (D,F) Miss L Perratt 5-9-5 G Duffield 7
6 -003 SMARTER CHARTER 14 (D,F) Mrs L Stubbs 4-9-4 J F Egan 11
7 0-00 NAISSANT 15 (C,G,S) R McKellar 4-9-0 K Sked (7) 8
8 0-05 SPANISH VERDICT 7 (CD,F,G,S) Denys Smith 10-8-5 A Culhane 3
9 *050- BULSARA 199 (F) C Fairhurst 5-8-3 L Charnock 9*
10 0-00 GILLING DANCER 77 (CD,F) P Calver 4-8-0 Darren Moffatt (3) 5
11 2-00 CEE-JAY-AY 7 (C,D,F,G,S) J Berry 10-7-13 P Bradley (7) 6
12 *10-0 THATCHED 20 (CD,F) R Barr 7-7-10 P Fessey (5) 10*

9-2 Smarter Charter, 6-1 Spanish Verdict, 7-1 Royal Result, Cee-Jay-Ay, 8-1 Tertium, Bulsara, 10-1 Celebration Cake, 12-1 others.

4.00 SPARROW HAWK MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,364: 1m 4f) (7)

1 00- DAWN SUMMIT 211 B Hanbury 9-0 A Clark 2
2 *06 MEN OF WICKENBY 13 R McKellar 9-0 J McAuley (7) 5*
3 0-64 NOT FORGOTTEN 10 (V) P Kelleway 9-0 G Duffield 7
4 2 POLYPHONY 13 R Charlton 9-0 D Harrison 6
5 *63 RARE TALENT 15 M Channon 9-0 A Culhane 4*
6 50 THINK AGAIN 3 R Craggs 9-0 L Charnock 3
7 3 INDIGO DAWN 31 M Johnston 8-9 D Holland 1

5-4 Indigo Dawn, 11-4 Not Forgotten, 6-1 Polyphony, 7-1 Rare Talent, 8-1 Dawn Summit, 16-1 Men Of Wickenby, 20-1 Think Again.

4.30 ST NICHOLAS ARMS HANDICAP
(£3,567: 1m 4f) (8)

1 5-21 LITTLE ACORN 30 (D,G) S Williams 9-7 J Carroll 7
2 *05-2 NIGHT MIRAGE 22 (BF) M Johnston 9-7 D Holland 6*
3 00-1 COUNT TONY 25 (F) S Woods 9-3 D Biggs 3
4 00-6 ARISAIG 25 P Calver 8-6 Darren Moffatt (3) 8
5 2406 JACK THE LAD 20 J Hetherton 8-5 N Kennedy 1
6 60-6 FLOATING DEVON 16 T Easterby 8-1 J F Egan 5
7 06-5 PUPIL MASTER 30 Denys Smith 7-11 L Charnock 2
8 06-0 MADAM LUCY 24 W Haigh 7-10 J Bramhill (5) 4

5-2 Count Tony, 3-1 Night Mirage, 7-2 Little Acorn, 6-1 Jack The Lad, Floating Devon, 8-1 Pupil Master, 12-1 others

5.05 PEREGRINE FALCON HANDICAP
(£2,794: 5f 207yd) (19)

1 *0100 RAMSEY HOPE 8 (V,D,F,G) C Fairhurst 4-10-0 L Charnock 1*
2 2-16 AMRON 25 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 10-9-13 T E Durcan (5) 17
3 010- BATALEUR 182 (D,S) Miss J Bower 4-9-9 D R McCabe 13
4 23-0 FAIRY PRINCE 17 (CD,F) Mrs A King 4-9-9 F Lynch (3) 3
5 0-00 TAKE NOTICE 15 R McKellar 4-9-7 J McAuley (7) 19
6 1316 NEEDLE MATCH 15 (D,G) J J O'Neill 4-9-4 G Duffield 14
7 5100 SIHAFI 15 (D,G) J Carr 4-9-4 A Clark 5
8 40-0 MISTER WESTSOUND 15 (B,D,F) Miss L Perratt 5-9-4 *J Carroll 18*
9 000- WINTER SCOUT 217 (CD,F,G) R Fahey 9-9-4 R Winston (7) 16
10 5003 NAUGHTY PISTOL 7 (B,D,F,G) P Evans 5-9-3 J F Egan 12
11 *1060 SHONTAINE 17 (D,F,G) M Johnston 4-9-1 D Holland 4*
12 0P-0 BIRCHWOOD SUN 25 (B,CD,F,G,S) M Dods 7-8-13 C Teague (3) 9
13 64-4 CAMIONNEUR 25 (D,F) T Easterby 4-8-12 M Birch 15
14 0-00 ZAIN DANCER 17 D Nicholls 5-8-11 Alex Greaves 8
15 0-31 GREY KINGDOM 4 (D,F) *M Brittain 6-8-11 (7ex)* D Meernagh (7) 7
16 1008 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 13 (D,F,G,S) R McKellar 5-8-10 R Lappin 2
17 0500 KID ORY 7 (D,G) D Chapman 6-8-9 A Culhane 11
18 1036 LADY SILK 81 (D,G,S) Miss J Craze 6-8-4 J Fanning 6
19 0-00 SILENT SYSTEM 25 D Chapman 4-7-10 P Fessey (5) 10

11-2 Grey Kingdom, 6-1 Camionneur, 7-1 Naughty Pistol, 8-1 Amron, Ramsey Hope, 10-1 Sihafi, Needle Match, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Channon, 14 winners from 24 runners, 58.3%; W Haigh, *3 from 9, 33.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 63, 23.8%;* P Evans, 6 from 28, 21.4%; M Johnston, 11 from 55, 20.0%; J Berry, 15 from 96 15.6%.

JOCKEYS: *A Culhane, 4 winners from 20 rides, 20.0%;* Paul Roberts, 3 from 16, 18.8%; G Duffield, 12 from 67, 17.9%. Only qualifiers

TAUNTON

THUNDERER

5.35 Ath Cheannaithe. 6.05 Fleet Cadet. 6.35 After The Fox. 7.10 Miss Foxy. 7.40 Spinning Steel. 8.10 Contract Bridge.

GOING: FIRM SIS

5.35 ASPEN CATERING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(Amateurs: £1,774: 2m 3f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 4302 ATH CHEANNAITHE 17F (V,C,F) J Neville 5-11-10 J Jukes (5)
2 0630 GI MOSS 11 (B) P Harriss 10-10-9 D McPhail
3 PF54 ROYAL HAND 21 (V) R Armson 7-10-5 R Armson (7)
4 PP38 MISS GEE-ELL 15 N Thomson 5-10-1 E Babington (7)
5 4P05 IMPERIAL HONORS 27 N Lampard 6-10-1 A Kinane (7)
6 PP-P IRISH DOMINION 27 A Hobbs 7-10-0 G Shenkin (7)

5-4 Ath Cheannaithe, 7-2 Royal Hand, 5-1 Gi Moss, 8-1 Miss Gee-Ell, Imperial Honors, 33-1 Irish Dominion.

6.05 TAUNTON RACECOURSE CONFERENCE CENTRE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,763: 2m 3f 110yd) (9)

1 3014 FLEET CADET 25 *(V,BF,F,S) M Pipe 6-12-0* G Supple (5)
2 43-4 PRINCE EQUINAME 22 (B,BF) R Simpson 5-11-8 B Clifford
3 3-0F MORE BILLS 20 (V) J Neville 5-11-0 T Dascombe
4 5446 JUST FOR A REASON 25 (V,G) R Juckes 5-10-13 J Railton
5 6560 NIGHT TIME 195 (F) A Hobbs 5-10-13 Mr G Shenkin (7)
6 4200 GRIFFIN'S GIRL 142 N Ayliffe 5-10-10 *Guy Lewis (3)*
7 3025 KAT'S LADY 13 C Popham 4-10-0 O McPhail (7)
8 P603 RAPID LINER 13 R Baker 4-10-0 V Slattery
9 0063 AGAINST THE CLOCK 16 *P Bowen 5-10-0* L Cummins (7)

2-1 Fleet Cadet, 4-1 More Bills, 5-1 *Just For A Reason*, 6-1 *Prince Equiname*, 8-1 *Night Time*, 10-1 *Rapid Liner*, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Neville, 3 winners from *11 runners*, 27.3%; M Pipe, 45 *from 207, 21.7%. Only qualifiers.*

JOCKEYS: T Dascombe, 9 winners from 79 rides, 11.4%; G Upton, 4 from 40, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

6.35 PETER & SYBIL BLACKBURN MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY
(Novices chase: £3,420: 2m 3f) (8)

1 22P1 DUKE OF DREAMS 20 (D,F) R Baker 7-12-0 V Slattery
2 431F AFTER THE FOX 38 (CD,BF,F,G) N Hawke 10-11-7 *Mr J Tizzard (7)*
3 4034 CASTLECONNER 10 (B,G) R Frost 6-11-7 J Frost
4 PP13 MISTRESS ROSIE 13 (F,S) M Hill 10-11-2 Chris Webb (5)
5 *2P23 MOZEMO 16 (V,BF,G) M Pipe 10-11-0* G Supple (5)
6 PPP- RUN WITH JOY 405P A Hobbs 6-11-0 R Greene
7 PPF/ BALLY CRUISE 782P A Bailey 10-10-9 T J O'Sullivan
8 P00P NUNS LUCY 20 F Jordan 6-10-9 D Byrne

11-8 After The Fox, 4-1 Duke Of Dreams, 9-2 Mozemo, 5-1 Castleconner, 6-1 Mistress Rosie, 25-1 Run With Joy, 33-1 others

7.10 BARNARDOS CENTENARY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,169: 2m 1f) (5)

1 10P0 BAYERD 77 (B,S) C Egerton 6-11-7 J A McCarthy
2 *P-13 MISS FOXY 64 (D,F) R Frost 7-11-2 J Frost*
3 5003 RED TEL 142 (F) M Pipe 5-11-0 G Supple (5)
4 4250 LAURA LYE 11 B De Haan 7-10-9 G Upton
5 *0 PICCOLINA 99 R Phillips 5-10-9* J Railton

4-6 Red Tel, 9-2 Bayerd, 5-1 Miss Foxy, 7-1 Laura Lye, 20-1 Piccolina

7.40 SOMERSET NUFFIELD HOSPITAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,436: 3m) (5)

1 *045P MUGONI BEACH 18 (B,F,G,S) M Pipe 12-11-10 G Supple (5)*
2 3504 STAUNCH RIVAL 27 (B,CD,F,G,S) G Thorner 10-10-8 *Clare Thorner (7)*
3 *4F35* SPINNING STEEL 13 (BF,F,G) P Rodford 10-10-1 S Burrough
4 P416 FOXGROVE 10 (D,F,G) R Price 11-10-0 X Aizpuru (5)
5 *4P1P L'UOMO PIU 9 (CD,F,G,S) A Barrow 13-10-0* Mr O McPhail (7)

11-10 Mugoni Beach, 7-2 Staunch Rival, 5-1 Foxgrove, 6-1 Spinning Steel, 10-1 L'Uomo Piu

8.10 RED CROSS & ST JOHN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,987: 2m 1f) (5)

1 *64P4 OCTOBER BREW 25 (B,D,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-10* B Moore (7)
2 4031 SHIFTING MOON 22 (CD,F) F Jordan 5-11-4 D Byrne
3 0601 CONTRACT BRIDGE 20 (D,F) *P Murphy 4-11-3* W McFarland
4 P520 KETCHICAN 6 S Knight 5-11-1 G Upton
5 5335 GABISH 183 (F,G) B Scriven 12-10-0 G Supple (5)

6-4 Shifting Moon, 2-1 Contract Bridge, 7-2 October Brew, 7-1 Ketchican, 25-1 Gabish.

PERTH

THUNDERER

2.10 Double Agent. 2.45 Eternal City. 3.15 Unguided Missile. 3.50 Six Clerks. 4.20 Solomon's Dancer. 4.55 General Manager. 5.25 Light The Fuse.

GOING. GOOD SIS

2.10 BUSINESS TAX CENTRE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,804: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 11F0 DOUBLE AGENT 25 (D,F,G) J Johnson 11-7 P Carberry
2 *1045 PRIDDY FAIR 84 (D,G) D Barker 10-13* R Guest
3 06 BRECON 80 W Haigh 10-12 P Niven
4 F GOLD OF ARABIA 49 K Morgan 10-12 R Dunwoody
5 0 SADLER'S REALM 34 P Hobbs 10-12 G Tormey
6 00 THORNTOUN HOUSE 8 J Goldie 10-12 D Parker
7 *060 POLITICAL MANDATE 18 R Nixon 10-7* B Storey

6-4 Double Agent, 7-2 Sadler's Realm, 9-2 Gold Of Arabia, 6-1 Priddy Fair, 8-1 Brecon, 12-1 Thorntoun House, 16-1 Political Mandate

2.45 SCOTTISH NEWS OF THE WORLD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,004: 2m 4f 110yd) (19)

1 3314 IFALLELSEFAILS 32 (CD,BF,F,S) L Lungo 9-12-0 W Dowling (8)
2 0-00 FATHER O'BRIEN 2 (C,G,S) J Poulton 10-11-9 N Hannity (7)
3 *-61F PRECIPICE RUN 27 (D,G,S) J Bilkett 12-11-8 S Taylor*
4 0205 ETERNAL CITY 34 (G) G Richards 6-11-3 G Lee
5 1-PP STRATHMORE LODGE 32 (S) Miss L Russell 8-11-1 P Midgley
6 361P PLAYFUL JULIET 45 (B,F,G,S) J Haynes 9-11-1 E Callaghan
7 3233 PARISH WALK 135 K Drewry 6-10-11 B Grattan
8 *-P65 SANDRIFT 25 C Parker 8-10-8 F Leahy*
9 -200 WEATHER ALERT 45 (V,G) K Morgan 6-10-5 M Newton (3)
10 5106 BARNSTORMER 13 (B,F,G) E Elliott 11-10-3 G F Ryan
11 *-400 SKANE RIVER 32 G Richards 6-10-0 R Burns (8)*
12 -U00 DON'T TELL JUDY 45 Miss M Milligan 9-10-0 N Horrocks (5)
13 60-0 FANADIYR 81 J Goldie 5-10-0 S Melrose (3)
14 40-0 WHITEGATESPRINCESS 21 B Ellison 6-10-0 R McGrath
15 500P DASHMAR 25 (B) Ms L Plater 10-10-0 R Wilkinson (3)
16 *-0P0 AUTO RACING 136 M Todhunter 6-10-0 C McCormack (8)*
17 0850 MEADOWLECK 21 W Young 8-10-0 I Jardine (5)
18 45PF SHUT UP 11 (G) Mrs E Moscrop 6-10-0 E Husband
19 PPFF LYFORD CAY 13 (V) J Bewley 7-10-0 T Siddall (5)

3-1 Ifallelsefails, 5-1 Eternal City, 6-1 Skane River, 7-1 Sandrift, 8-1 Father O'Brien, 10-1 Parish Walk, Weather Alert, 12-1 others

3.15 SUN LIFE OF CANADA HANDICAP CHASE
(£8,013: 3m) (4)

1 22F1 UNGUIDED MISSILE 21 (D,F,G,S) G Richards 9-12-0 *R Dunwoody*
2 2531 RECTORY GARDEN 57 (D,G,S) T Forster 8-10-0 P Carberry
3 1-1F TEMPLE GARTH 176 (CD,F,G,S) P Beaumont 8-10-0 R Supple
4 *PP3P SNOOK POINT 18 (G) D Lamb 10-10-0* J Burke

1-2 Unguided Missile, 4-1 Rectory Garden, 10-1 Temple Garth, 33-1 Snook Point.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Hobbs, 12 winners from 24 runners, 50.0%; K Bailey, 12 from 37, 32.4%; L Lungo, 8 from 27, 29.6%; P Beaumont, 7 from 25, *28.0%; J Fitzgerald, 4 from 18, 22.2%; P Monteith, 16 from 76, 21.1%.*

JOCKEYS: G Tormey, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%; G Lee, 3 from 7, 42.9%; P Carberry, 5 from 16, 31.3%; P Niven, 25 from 84, 29.8%; *R Guest, 6 from 30, 20.0%; R Dunwoody, 6 from 34, 17.6%.*

3.50 SCOTTISH SUN MADE IN SCOTLAND FOR SCOTLAND NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,825: 2m 110yd) (14)

1 *4540 THE STUFFED PUFFIN 2 C Mann 5-11-10* R Guest
2 0031 JESSOLLE 18 (D,F) G Richards 5-11-10 R Dunwoody
3 1143 LAST TRY 24 (D,F,G) B Rothwell 6-11-8 A S Smith
4 0000 MAPLE BAY 2 (V,D,F) B Ellison 8-11-5 G Cahill
5 -142 BRUMON 15F (V,D,S) D Moffatt 6-11-4 D J Moffatt
6 2133 SIX CLERKS 21 (D,G) J Fitzgerald 4-11-1 P Carberry
7 225 SHINEROLLA 35F C Parker 5-10-11 D Parker
8 -006 PAPARAZZO 41 G Moore 6-10-9 L Wyer
9 *4U21 TEEJAY'N'AITCH 8 (D,G) J Goldie 5-10-7 S Taylor (5)*
10 0012 KILDRUMMY CASTLE 24 (D,BF,F) J Fitzgerald 5-10-7 F Leahy (3)
11 3402 PARSON'S LODGE 8 (G) L Lungo 9-10-5 W Dowling (7)
12 2350 FAIRELAINE 7F (B) K Bailey 5-10-4 C O'Dwyer
13 *P0F6 REACH THE CLOUDS 32 J Upson 5-10-0 R Supple*
14 6U00 STAR MASTER 8 P Monteith 6-10-0 -

7-2 Jessolle, 5-1 Six Clerks, 6-1 Kildrummy Castle, 7-1 The Stuffed Puffin, 8-1 Brumon, Shinerolla, 10-1 Last Try, 12-1 others

4.20 ERNST & YOUNG NOVICES CHASE
(£5,833: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 2222 SOLOMON'S DANCER 7 (D,BF,F,G) G Richards 7-11-11 R Dunwoody
2 4505 *MALTA MAN 35 P Cheesbrough 7-11-3 A S Smith*
3 32F2 TALL MEASURE 18 (F) D Swindlehurst 11-11-3 B Storey
4 4-0P WALLS COURT 125 J Barlett 10-11-3 L O'Hara

7-4 Solomon's Dancer, 5-1 Malta Man, 12-1 Tall Measure, 16-1 Walls Court

4.55 PARTY IS NEARLY OVER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(Div I: £2,052: 2m 110yd) (13)

1 3-13 LORD PODGSKI 48 (D,G) P Monteith 6-11-11 R Dunwoody
2 *1 TARA GALE 91 (S) J Neville 5-11-6 P Carberry*
3 GENERAL MANAGER Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-4 J Supple
4 504 JUNIPER HILL 25 K Morgan 5-11-4 W Fry
5 60 RUN FOR THE MILL 138 J Jefferson 5-11-4 L Wyer
6 0 THE TRUE MILLER 32 F Murtagh 6-11-4 B Storey
7 *6 TIME WARRIOR 32 G Moore 6-11-4 N Hannity (7)*
8 TROUBLE AHEAD K Bailey 6-11-4 C O'Dwyer
9 44 CRYSTAL JEWEL 55 P Hobbs 5-10-13 R Dunwoody
10 NON NON JOESEPHINE Miss Z Green 6-10-13 Mr T Morrison
11 BALLYMANA BOY F Murphy 4-10-12 M Foster
12 *6 WELLSWOOD 90 J Jefferson 4-10-12 E Callaghan (3)*
13 00 MEGGIE SCOTT 32 J Dodds 4-10-7 R Guest

3-1 Tara Gale, 5-1 Lord Podgski, 6-1 Crystal Jewel, Trouble Ahead, 8-1 Juniper Hill, *Time Warrior, 10-1 General Manager*, 14-1 others

5.25 PARTY IS NEARLY OVER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(Div II: £2,052: 2m 110yd) (12)

1 13-5 CHINA KING 25 (D,F) J Fitzgerald 6-11-11 P Carberry
2 *51 EASBY BLUE 51 (D,G) S Kettlewell 5-11-11 P Niven*
3 00- CALLING THE TUNE 338 B Mactaggart 6-11-4 D Bentley
4 *U HANSEL'S STREAK 25P T Cuthbert 5-11-4 L O'Hara*
5 2 LIGHT THE FUSE 69 K Bailey 5-11-4 C O'Dwyer
6 05 SABU 25 J Charlton 5-11-4 B Storey
7 *D THE CHASE 49 J Jefferson 6-11-4 E Callaghan (3)*
8 00 TIDAL RACE 97 J Haldane 5-11-4 A S Smith
9 *000 JO LIGHTNING 13 B Ellison 4-10-12* K Johnson
10 TOBERLONE J Dodds 4-10-12 R Guest
11 TOBY G Richards 4-10-12 R Burns (7)
12 *GEEGEE EMMARR J J O'Neill 4-10-7 R McGrath (5)*

2-1 Light The Fuse, 4-1 China King, 6-1 Easby Blue, 8-1 Geegee Emmarr, 10-1 Toby, 14-1 The Chase, 16-1 others.

LUDLOW

THUNDERER

5.45 Theme Arena. 6.15 Quite A Man. 6.45 Faustino. 7.15 Jasilu. 7.45 Emerald Charm. 8.15 Rare Spread.

Carl Evans: 7.45 Great Gusto.

GOING. FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

5.45 LOWE SELLING HURDLE
(£1,794: 2m) (11)

1 PUPF BAXWORTHY LORD 84 C Popham 6-11-0 S McNeill
2 0604 GLEN GARNOCK 20 R Juckes 5-11-0 Gary Lyons
3 00PU JUST ANDY 23 (B) B Preece 6-11-0 T Jenks
4 4500 TEE TEE TOO 16 A Carroll 5-11-0 A Wintle (7)
5 *-005 TIMELY EXAMPLE 25 (B) B Cambidge 6-11-0* S Wynne
6 003 BOLD TIME MONKEY 20 M Tate 6-10-9 W Marston
7 *064P DAYDREAM BELIEVER 6 M Salaman 5-10-9 P Holley*
8 0 ROXY HICKS 23 R Price 5-10-9 J R Kavanagh
9 4022 THEME ARENA 16 (V,BF,F) M Pipe 4-10-9 D Walsh
10 006U VITA NUOVA 23 W Jenks 6-10-9 R Bellamy
11 00 WITHERKAY 38 P Nicholls 4-10-9 D Burrows (5)

5-4 Theme Arena, 5-1 Glen Garnock, 6-1 Witherkay, 7-1 Tee Tee Too, 9-1 others.

6.15 BROMFIELD HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,200. 2m 4f) (4)

1 1111 QUITE A MAN 6 (CD,F,G,S) S Brookshaw 9-12-2 (6ex) C Maude
2 *4432 HERBERT BUCHANAN 22 (F,G) P Nicholls 7-11-5* W Marston
3 33F0 HOUGHTON 77 (D,F,G,S) W Jenks 11-11-0 Mr R Burton (7)
4 P-0P APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE 25 (D,F,G) K Wames 10-10-0 S Wynne

1-2 Quite A Man, 3-1 Herbert Buchanan, 5-1 Houghton, 50-1 Applianceofscience

6.45 ROBERT HOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,560: 2m) (7)

1 1444 YUBRALEE 99 (CD,BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-12-0 D Walsh
2 1002 FAUSTINO 13 (CD,F) P Hobbs 5-11-11 W Marston
3 P042 ERINY 11 (D,F,S) J Quinn 9-10-2 C Maude
4 1154 ZINGIBAR 9F (D,F,S) J Bradley 5-10-0 S Wynne
5 3F44 VERDE LUNA 13 (F) D Arbuthnot 5-10-0 S McNeill
6 2623 LITTLE SHEFFORD 22 (BF,F) M Muggeridge 5-10-0 I Lawrence
7 *6P01 KALZARI 16 (CD,F,G) A Carroll 12-10-0* D Burrows (5)

7-4 Faustino, 3-1 Yubralee, 6-1 Eriny, Verde Luna, 8-1 Zingibar, 9-1 others.

7.15 DOWNTON HALL STABLES NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,200: 3m) (4)

1 33P1 JASILU 25 (B,D,F,G) K Bailey 7-11-10 S McNeill
2 P131 INCH EMPEROR 16 (C,F) A Carroll 7-11-3 T J Murphy
3 *131P BLASKET HERO 147 (B,D,F,G) Mrs S Williams 9-11-1* -
4 5024 PANDORA'S PRIZE 16 (S) T Wall 11-10-0 R Massey (3)

4-6 Jasilu, 3-1 Blasket Hero, 7-2 Inch Emperor, 14-1 Pandora's Prize

7.45 LANE FOX AND BALFOUR & COOKE HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs. £1,725. 2m 4f) (5)

1 2132 CAPE COTTAGE 16 (C,F,G,S) D Caro 13-12-7 A Phillips (7)
2 3P-5 GREAT GUSTO 19P Ms L Blackford 11-12-7 Ms L Blackford (7)
3 0 BALLAD SONG 24P Mrs C Chadney 14-12-0 M Munrowd (7)
4 *0P-U STYLISH GENT 13P (F,G) S Griffiths 10-12-0 A Dalton (7)*
5 F00- EMERALD CHARM 13P (G) G Evans 9-11-9 M Rimell (3)

8-15 Cape Cottage, 100-30 Emerald Charm, 13-2 Great Gusto, 10-1 others.

8.15 I T T LONDON & EDINBURGH NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,070: 3m 2f 110yd) (4)

1 *2012 RARE SPREAD 58 (S) M Pipe 7-11-6* D Walsh
2 5064 AWESTRUCK 32 (B) B Preece 7-11-0 J Mogford (7)
3 0314 PONTEVEDRA 24 (F) K Morgan 4-10-7 S McNeill
4 8642 SONG FOR JESS 25 F Jordan 4-10-1 S Wynne

5-4 Rare Spread, 6-4 Pontevedra, 6-1 Awestruck, 7-1 Song For Jess.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 20 winners from 76 runners, 26.3%; M Pipe, 18 from 81, 22.2%; P Nicholls, 5 from 26, 19.2%; P Hobbs, 11 from 66, 16.7%; *A Carroll, 3 from 19, 15.8%; R Price, 6 from 51, 11.8%*

JOCKEYS: *D Burrows, 3 winners from 12 rides, 25.0%;* A P McCoy, 11 from 49, 22.4%; R Massey, 6 from 40, 15.0%; C Maude, 3 from 20, 15.0%; J R Kavanagh, 8 from 65, 12.3%; S McNeill, 7 from 57, 12.3%

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Beverley

Going: good to firm

2.10 (5f) 1, CATHEDRAL (Pat Eddery, 2-5 fav); 2, Colway Ritz (G Duffield, 20-1); 3, Archello (G Parkin, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Marylebone (6th), 11 Cambridge Blue, 14 At Large (4th), Hoh Dancer, 33 Hever Golf Angel, 50 Anetta, Damtree, Hype Superior (5th), La Doyenne, Magazine Gap, *Star Of The Road*. 14 ran. 6l, ¾l, nk, 1½l, 1l. B Meehan at Lambourn. Tote: £1.50; £1.20, £6.30, £3.20. DF: £26.80. *Trio: £129.50.* CSF: £16.82.

2.40 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, GOING FOR BROKE (J Fortune, 15-8); 2, Double Gold (Pat Eddery, 7-4 fav); 3, Manileno (N Kennedy, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Red Embers (6th), 6 Wildmoor (4th), 10 Willskip, 16 Forest Signal, Misterton, 20 Maremma (5th). 9 ran. 2½l, 1½l, ¾l, 1¼l, 6l. P Haslam at Middleham. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £1.30, £2.60. DF: £3.30. Trio: £14.70. CSF: £6.48.

3.10 (7f 100yd) 1, HAWAIT (M Hills, 4-1); 2, Nomore Mr Niceguy (K Fallon, 7-1); 3, Can Can Lady (J Weaver, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 11-10 fav Hen Harrier (6th), 7 Boater (4th), 10 Tough Leader (5th), 12 The Wyandotte Inn. 7 ran. ¾l, ½l, 1l, sh hd, 1l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £4.50; £2.50, £3.40. DF: £22.20. CSF: £29.46.

3.40 (1m 100yd) 1, TEOFILIO (Pat Eddery, 8-11 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Crystal Gold (J Reid, 5-1); 3, Nobel Lad (T Sprake, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Gharib (5th), 10 Neronian, 16 Begorrat (4th), Night Express (6th), 50 Blue Island, Glorious Dancer, Martindale, Silver Moon. 11 ran. 4l, 2½l, 1¼l, ¾l, 2l. D Loder at Newmarket. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.70, £3.50. DF: £3.30. Trio: £59.60. CSF: £5.25.

4.10 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, TALLULAH BELLE (J Weaver, 4-1 fav); 2, Portite Sophie (D Mernagh, 9-2); 3, Classic Beauty (K Fallon, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Evening In Paris (pu), 7 Noble Canonire, 8 On The Wildside, 14 Tolepa, 16 McGillycuddy Reeks (6th), My Millie, Worldwide Elsie (5th), 20 Needwood Nutkin (4th). 11 ran. 2l, 5l, 2l, hd, ¾l. N Littmoden at Wolverhampton. Tote: £4.40; £2.00, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £7.90. Trio: £51.20. CSF: £19.94. Tricast: £112.91.

4.40 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, REGAL PATROL (J Reid, 4-1); 2, Ajayib (R Hills, 6-4 fav); 3, Regal Reprimand (J Quinn, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Dream Of Nurmi (4th), 7 Shaded (6th), 12 Norman Conquest (5th), 20 Jackson Falls. 7 ran. Nk, 2l, 1½l, 1¼l, 8l. M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote: £4.80; £2.10, £1.30. DF: £3.50. CSF: £9.27.

Jackpot: £2,894.20.

Placepot: £27.30. Quadpot: £14.00.

Perth

Going: good

2.00 (3m ch) 1, ENSIGN EWART (Mr C Storey, 11-2); 2, Howayman (Mr A Parker, 3-1 fav); 3, Admission (Miss L Horner, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Master Kit, 8 Dark Dawn (5th), 9 Across The Card, Denim Blue (f), 16 Fordstown (4th), 20 Direct (pu), Rusty Blade (pu), Thank U Jim (ur), 33 Bow Handy Man (6th), Fifth Amendment (pu), 50 Border Glory (ur). 14 ran. Nk, 18l, 3l, 2½l, 12l. C Storey at Kelso. Tote: £4.70; £1.50, £1.80, £4.40. DF: £7.20. Trio: £34.50. CSF: £18.98.

2.30 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, LAGEN BRIDGE (D J Moffatt, 9-1); 2, Meadow Hymn (P Carberry, 9-4 fav); 3, Young Kenny (R Supple, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7 Papersing (pu), Sparkling Spring (6th), 10 Major Harris (4th), 20 Chealer (pu), Lottery Ticket (5th), 25 Pebble Beach, 33 Hush (pu), 66 Over Zealous, 200 Persian Grange (pu), 500 Moreflash (pu). 13 ran. 1¾l, 22l, ¾l, 1½l, 1¾l. D Moffatt at Cartmel. Tote: £9.30; £2.50, £1.30, £2.30. DF: £16.90. Trio: £19.80. CSF: £25.33.

3.00 (2m ch) 1, GROUSE-N-HEATHER (P Carberry, 7-2); 2, Storm Falcon (Chris Webb, 14-1); 3, Political Tower (B Storey, 9-1). ALSO RAN: Evens fav Monyman (4th), 9-2 Netherby Said (5th), 200 Cardenden (6th). 6 ran. 3½l, 3l, hd, dist, 8l. P Monteith at Rosewell. Tote: £3.40; £1.40, £3.30. DF: £11.40. CSF: £34.25.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, CHARLISTIONA (S Melrose, 25-1); 2, Suselja (E Callaghan, 25-1); 3, Eden Dancer (P Niven, 7-2 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 jt-fav Nonios, 8 Monkey Wench (5th), 12 Anlace (4th), Going Public (pu), Media Express, Nine Pipes, 16 Vanborough Lad (6th), Young Semele, 20 Bill's Pride, 25 Seconds Away (pu), 33 Connie Leathart (pu), Maggies Lad, Tashreef (r), 100 Ballochan Linn (pu), Danucha (f), Dark Midnight, DeVeers Currie, Saboteuse. 21 ran. 10l, 3½l, 2½l, 6l, ½l. J Dodds at Alnwick. Tote: £66.00; £15.60, £10.50, £1.90. DF: £1,496.80. Trio: £277.00 (part won. Pool of £351.14 carried forward to 5.20 at Sandown Park today). CSF: £483.15.

4.00 (2m ch) 1, TIDEBROOK (S McNeill, 7-2); 2, Cool Weather (A S Smith, 10-1); 3, Nooran (B Storey, 6-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Nawtinookey (5th), 12 High Mood (ur), 14 Royal Banker (ur), 20 Apollo Colosso (pu), 50 Regal Domain (4th), 66 Smart In Silk (f). 9 ran. NR: Saxon Mead, Supermarine. Dist, dist, 12l, dist. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £1.40, £1.40. DF: £9.20. Trio: £13.80. CSF: £31.84.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, BOURDONNER (Mr C Bonner, 9-2); 2, Elation (R Garritty, 20-1); 3, Master Of Troy (D Parker, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Unlatthen (4th), 4 Mister Ross, 10 Chipped Out (pu), Jymjam Johnny, 14 Danbys Gorse, Thursday Night (6th), 20 Fen Terrier (5th), 33 Fair And Fancy (pu), 50 Moreof A Gunner (pu). 12 ran. NR: Amlah. 12l, 5l, 5l, ½l, 27l. M Hammond at Middleham. Tote: £5.30; £1.80, £2.40, £7.00. DF: £38.60. Trio: £105.20. CSF: £85.92. Tricast: £1,232.07.

Placepot: £70.10. Quadpot: £16.70.

Fontwell Park

Going: good to firm

2.20 (3m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Galatasori Jane (L Cummins, Evens fav); 2, Drum Battle (11-4); 3, Nordic Spree (100-30). 8 ran. 10l, 8l. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.60, £1.20. DF: £2.70. CSF: £3.53.

2.50 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, Decyborg (C Maude, 8-13 fav); 2, Keep It Zipped (9-4); 3, Cardinal Gayle (6-1). 3 ran. 2l, dist. M Pipe. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.14.

3.20 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Scud Missile (Richard Guest, 5-4 fav); 2, Aditov (13-2); 3, Fawley Flyer (3-1). 4 ran. 2½l, 17l. J Payne. Tote: £2.30. DF: £8.50. CSF: £7.77.

3.50 (3m 3f hdle) 1, St Ville (B Powell, 10-3); 2, Runaway Pete (9-2); 3, Givus A Call (14-1). Snow Board 2-1 fav. 7 ran. NR: Karar. 14l, 1½l. R Buckler. Tote: £4.10; £2.20, £1.90. DF: £5.50. CSF: £17.86. Tricast: £169.31.

4.20 (2m 2f ch) 1, Blazer Moriniere (S Fox, 9-4 fav); 2, Mill O'The Rags (100-30); 3, Fichu (9-2). 6 ran. 10l, 20l. P Ritchens. Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £5.20. CSF: £9.04.

4.50 (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, Mullintor (D O'Sullivan, 5-2); 2, He Knows The Rules (13-8 fav); 3, Global Dancer (6-1). 12 ran. 1½l, 28l. R Rowe. Tote: £3.70; £1.90, £1.10, £2.90. DF: £3.20. Trio: £13.00. CSF: £6.67.

Placepot: £34.80. Quadpot: £25.50.

Eddery lands double

PAT EDDERY completed a short-priced double with Cathedral and Teofilio at Beverley yesterday. Teofilio, second to High Roller and Hidden Meadow in his two outings last year, readily made it third time lucky in the Moortown Maiden Stakes.

Always travelling well, the David Loder-trained 11-8 on favourite, an entry in next month's Dante Stakes at York, had only to be pushed out to overcome Crystal Gold by four lengths. "He is progressive and we shall see if we can find something a bit better for him," Loder said. "The Dante is worth bearing in mind, but we might decide not to drop him in at the deep end as soon as that."

Cathedral, trained by Brian Meehan, comfortably accounted for Colway Ritz by six lengths in the Fulford Maiden Stakes. "He was beaten by a good horse at Nottingham [Mile High] but benefited from the run," Meehan said. "We have always thought of him as a group horse, but he went wrong behind when we were preparing him for Ascot last year."

FOOTBALL

Cole's net failure gives Ferguson scope to reshuffle

By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

IT WAS ten days ago, between the two 1-0 defeats by Borussia Dortmund which ended Manchester United's latest attempt to win the European Cup, that Alex Ferguson, their manager, *bounded on to a stage at the* Grosvenor House Hotel, in London, with an envelope in his hands and three names to read out.

As guest of honour at the Professional Footballers' Association annual dinner, he was about to announce the association's player of the year, and a wry smile spread across his face when he came to the identity of the winner. "It's Alan Shearer," he said. "I've *tried to sign him twice.* He's the only player I'd break the bank for."

In the empty shell of Old Trafford, late on Wednesday, Ferguson's words seemed to be booming out across the stadium like a great lament for the missing ingredient that could have taken United on to Munich to face Juventus in the final on May 28.

Even allowing for the fact that they fell behind to an early goal from Lars Ricken, even allowing for the superb last-ditch defending of the unbreachable Jürgen Kohler, United went on to create so many chances that they should have been able to outrun their guests even if Dortmund had scored twice in *the Theatre of Dreams.*

Instead, when opportunity knocked, United recoiled. Cantona was guilty of two abject misses. Pallister was wide with a simple header. Cole shot twice into the side-netting when he should have scored, and Giggs, still embarrassingly one-footed for such a talented player, sliced a right-foot volley horribly wide.

As Ferguson pointed out, it was not that United were outplayed or out-thought by Dortmund in either leg. Far from it. They went at them like a whirlwind and they should have torn them down, but they had nobody to finish the openings that they made. With Shearer in the team — perhaps even with Les Ferdinand, Ian Wright or Robbie Fowler — they would have been preparing for the final now.

Apart from the issue of whether Cantona is now past his best and, furthermore, going downhill fast, United also seem to be in danger of slipping back into the situation that dogged Ron Atkinson for so long while he was in charge: not having a goal-poaching striker capable of scoring 30 goals a season.

Cole was supposed to be the solution to that problem when he was brought from Newcastle United for £7 million, but, dogged by lack of confidence and injury, he has performed only fitfully. Ironically, against Dortmund on Wednesday and against Liverpool last Saturday, he looked sharp and hungry. United's most threatening presence, but still there is a suspicion that, at European level in particular, his touch will let him down.

Gradually, his admirers are saying, Cole is becoming a more complete footballer, but that is not what United bought him for. They bought him to be a predatory striker, not a creator for others, and, despite Ferguson's admirable loyalty towards him, the time may be coming when he will listen to offers from other clubs.

Cole: two bad misses

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, too, *has performed creditably* in his first year in English football, well enough in tandem with Cole and Cantona to take United to the brink of their fourth FA Carling Premiership title in five years. In European terms, though, he is still learning his trade and his was a peripheral presence on Wednesday.

Ferguson, however, was in a cheerful, upbeat mood yesterday, full of hope for an assault on the Champions' League next season, confident that *only slight modifications* are needed to push United towards winning the trophy on the thirtieth anniversary of the triumph of Best, Charlton and the rest.

"I am not considering making wholesale changes," Ferguson said. "When you analyse our games in Europe, we lost five matches 1-0. Three of them were deflected goals and one was a penalty, so how far away are we?

"There will be changes and some will come from within. Others may come from outside, but the players know that is not a criticism of them. The bus just moves on to the next stop. That is nothing new here.

"We know we should be going to the European Cup final. I sat up watching the video and it was like watching *the video of a whole season* — we missed so many chances."

In the light of that, "How far away are we?" suddenly becomes a lot simpler to answer: Just as far away as a striker who would break the bank.

Di Canio, shadowed by two Falkirk defenders, was one of the few Celtic players able to handle the pressure

Burns left waiting for axe to fall

By Kevin McCarra

IT WAS fitting that Celtic's perfunctory performance in their abject 1-0 defeat by Falkirk in the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final replay should meet with a token protest. At full-time on Wednesday, their supporters booed briefly, but showed a greater desire to be away from Ibrox, out of the rain and far from the shame.

Although the emotional reaction was deep, it did not encompass rage. Instead, there was sadness among fans who had seen Celtic flunk yet another test and regret that one of the club's most favoured figures will almost certainly be discarded. Tommy Burns, appointed as manager *in 1994, must have* suffered the last failure of his tenure.

There will, all the same, be no leave-taking for the moment. Fergus McCann, the managing director, merely confirmed that the plan to review operations in the close season had not been altered by the defeat. Burns himself has no intention of slipping away quietly.

"I will not be resigning," he said. "I can either walk away or stay and try and change it. I intend to stay and change it." The decision, however, is not in his own hands. Instead of sacking Burns, Celtic need only wait until his contract expires in the summer and then decline to renew it.

The only hope for Burns is that another job could be found for him in a revamped structure at Celtic. There is a faint possibility that he will benefit from a residue of affection. His team has often been entertaining and his *engaging personality has given* the club an appealing public face. His record, however, conceals progress rather than demonstrating it. Celtic lost the 1994 Coca-Cola Cup to Raith Rovers, a club then resident in the Bell's Scottish League first division. Falkirk, too, live in that humble milieu. The Scottish Cup of 1995 is the only trophy so far *collected by Burns. Rangers* are about to take the premier division title for a ninth successive year.

The financial resurgence of Celtic, with their 40,000 season ticket-holders, makes the pratfalls of the team all the more difficult for supporters *and directors to tolerate.* Each failure intensifies the strain on the players. Burns attempted to halt that escalating anxiety by replacing the squad he inherited with fresh, untainted signings, but they, too, have become trapped in the syndrome.

On Wednesday, after they had fallen behind to Paul McGrillen's well-worked goal, Celtic's attempts to equalise were poisoned by alarm. Falkirk enjoyed a little luck, but the team from Brockville were never close to being overwhelmed.

The weakness of Falkirk can be exaggerated, and their side is hardly to be treated as *amateurs. Seven of its members* have played in the premier division and the splendid Andy Gray was once capped by England.

Victory over a Falkirk team that now meets Kilmarnock in the final would, for all that, have been the inevitable consequence of even a *moderate* performance by Celtic. "We live or die by success and, unfortunately, some of the players can't handle that pressure," Burns admitted.

This frail team, in which only Paolo di Canio's display evinced self-belief, was, *though,* built by the manager at a cost of some £15 million. The problems of remedying the ills are great, but it is a challenge that Burns will surely not survive to meet.

GOLF

Spanish master back with a smile

From Mel Webb in Madrid

THERE have been false dawns before, but this time it really did look as if the sun might be poking its head above the horizon. Severiano Ballesteros had a comparatively modest 70 in the first round of the Spanish Open here yesterday, but, by the end of this season, it might just prove to be one of his more significant rounds of the year.

Ballesteros finished the day four shots behind Padraig Harrington, the defending champion, and Alex Cejka, and three adrift of Gary *Emerson and Mark James,* but the bald figures do not even begin to tell the story.

This was Ballesteros's thirteenth competitive round of the season, and it was the first time that he has beaten par. Yes, chorus the cynics, but it was by only two shots; he did *have four* bogeys; it's happened before, nothing has really changed; just watch him tomorrow.

They *might* be right — we shall see today — but the inescapable feeling was that the significant difference was demonstrated, not by the mechanics of hitting golf shots, but by Ballesteros's bearing.

No man wears his heart on his sleeve more than Ballesteros does. If he is feeling bad, the shoulders slump, the eyes are hooded, he regards the world with suspicion. It was the way that he walked through 1996.

Yesterday, the back that has caused him so much agony over the years was straight, he looked his inquisitors straight in the face, his very *gait had* confidence ingrained in it. The difference was almost indefinable, but it was there all right.

He had a brilliant start with birdies on three of the first four holes. In the morning, he *had had an intensive session* on the range with Butch Harmon, the American coach who is on a busman's holiday at Chéz Ballesteros, and the destructive inaccuracy with woods and irons that has beleaguered Ballesteros this year was blessedly less evident *in a round that contained six* birdies.

"I have hit some good shots today, and I feel more happy with my game," he said. "I have won in the Seventies, the Eighties and the Nineties, and I am very confident I will win again in the Two Thousands." As *statements of intent* go, it was pretty unequivocal.

Greg Norman, who was bracketed with José Maria Olazábal on three under par on his first visit to the Iberian peninsula for 15 years, had a tale of Spanish culture to tell. The evening before, he had been to his *first bullfight, and* Sebastian Palomo Liñares, the matador, who is, apparently, the Placido Domingo of the bullring, dedicated his kill to Norman.

"He offered me his hat, and I took it," Norman said. "I didn't know that he was paying me a compliment, and I didn't realise I had to give it back. He also invited me to go into the ring with a little bull, but I declined gracefully."

Olazábal, *sitting next door* but one to him, chuckled. "I think you did the right thing," he said. So, one would imagine, do the sponsors of the tournament — and a certain Mrs Laura Norman.

FIRST ROUND

LEADING EARLY SCORES (GB and Ire unless stated) 66: P Harrington, A Cejka (Ger). 67: G Emerson, M James. 68: S Ames (Trin), E Romero (Arg), M A Jimenez (Sp), J Pyman, I Garrido (Sp), T Bjorn (Den), B Lane. 69: C Whitelaw (SA), L Westwood, G Norman (Aus), J M Olazabal (Sp), N Fasth (Swe), F Valera (Sp), I Garbutt. 70: C Rocca (It), P Mitchell, R Chapman, R Muntz (Holl), D Carter, A Binaghi (It), R Davis (Aus), D Howell, A Hunter, M Roe, S Torrance, S Ballesteros (Sp), D Gilford, M Jonzon (Swe), P Eales, J Pinero (Sp), F Cea (Sp), D Higgins, T Gogele (Ger). 71: J L Guepy (Fr), * S Garcia (Sp), P Quirici (Switz), S Cage, S Luna (Sp), P Linhart (Sp), C Watts, S Grappasonni (It). 72: J Sandelin (Swe), M A Martin (Sp), A Coltart, W Riley (Aus), A Sherborne, P Lawrie, P McGinley, * H Stenson (Swe), J Garcia (Sp), E Canonica (It), G Turner (NZ), A Cabrera (Arg), A Garrido (Sp), G Clark, R Jacquelin (Fr), N Briggs, D Robertson, J Van de Velde (Fr), B Langer (Ger), S Scahill (NZ), R Green (Aus), A Oldcorn, J Quiros (Sp), J Hawkes (SA), G Orr, M Mouland, J Coceres (Arg), P Affleck, J Lomas. * denotes amateur

Gresley spy silver lining

Non-League Football by Keith Pike

A NEW home awaits Gresley Rovers, and a new trophy to adorn a pristine boardroom. Yet a season that promises to *end in triumph* will be tinged with regret. The modern curse of non-league football — clubs with excellent teams but outdated facilities — has struck once again.

Barring an extraordinary twist in the closing week of the season, Gresley will secure the *Dr Martens League premier* division championship, yet the biggest prize of all, a place in the Vauxhall Conference, is denied them. At Moat Street, where a full house of 2,000 is expected to cheer Gresley across the finishing line tomorrow, euphoria and anticlimax are the order of the day.

The silverware would be Gresley's if they avoided defeat against Gloucester City, whose own long pursuit of the title has faded amid an exhausting end-of-season run-in. Gresley might even kick-off with the championship already theirs — Gloucester needed to win their home match against Atherstone United last night to retain *even a mathematical interest* — yet the move to a purpose-built ground two miles away, expected to be completed a couple of months into next season, has come too late.

"We found out in September that we could not go into the Conference and the players *and myself were bitterly disappointed,*" Paul Futcher, the Gresley player-manager, said. "We all want to operate at the highest level we can, but all we could do was our best on the pitch and week-in, week-out, the players have responded brilliantly. If we win the title, it would be a hell of an achievement."

Still playing at 40 after a 20-year, eight-club career through the senior divisions, Futcher is confident that he will retain the majority of his squad for a fresh challenge next season. "The move to a new ground is a massive step in the right direction," he said.

Inevitably, Gresley's situation has given Gloucester and *Cheltenham Town grounds* for optimism. They are neck-and-neck in the race to finish runners-up, the prize for which is the elevation denied the champions-elect.

They know all about tainted triumphs in the Vauxhall Conference, too, where the *champions have been refused a* placed in the Football League for three successive seasons. That trio of clubs has staged a season-long contest to make amends that could be resolved tomorrow.

After their demolition of Woking on Tuesday and Stevenage Borough's surrender of two points against Gateshead the next day, Macclesfield Town will be champions if they beat Bromsgrove Rovers while Kidderminster Harriers and Stevenage lose to Southport and Stalybridge Celtic respectively.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betts off on return journey

By Christopher Irvine

TWO years after he left Central Park, Denis Betts is likely to return as a Wigan player next season. Betts, the Great Britain forward, is being released early from a five-year contract at Auckland Warriors for what were described yes*terday as family reasons.*

Earlier reports that Betts, 27, was homesick and seeking a return to England, prompted inquiries from several clubs, but Wigan claim to have first option on the player, whose departure, along with Phil Clarke, at the end of the 1994-95 *season, prompted* Wigan's supremacy to recede.

Betts will complete the season in the Australasian Super League. He has held talks with Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, but interest elsewhere is bound to rise in June, when Auckland are in England for world club *championship matches.*

"I'm committed to playing as well as I can for Auckland for the rest of the season," Betts said. "I'll leave with a heavy heart because, after some trying times, I'm starting to enjoy myself again."

Meanwhile, Lee Hensen, *Wigan's new Tongan forward,* will make his first appearance, after signing from Widnes, in the Stones Super League tonight. Widnes meet Salford, who are defending a 16-match unbeaten home record.

Alan Hunte has been omitted by St Helens for their match against Castleford at Anfield on Sunday, and a torn hamstring means that he is extremely doubtful for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Bradford tomorrow week. Derek McVey, the Australian forward, is responding to treatment on damaged an*kle ligaments and hopes* to be fit in time for Wembley.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Nationwide League
First division
Bolton v Charlton (7.45)
Norwich v Man City (7.45)
* Portsmouth v Ipswich (7.45)
Sheff Utd v Stoke (7.45)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Tottenham v West Ham (at Upton Park, 2.0).

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Portfield v Peacehaven and Telscombe.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Gills Shield: Final: Gravesham v Brighton (at Gravesend FC, 7.0). London Gill Cup: Final: Harlow v N Kent (at Sawbridgeworth Town, 7.0).

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Hampshire
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Warwickshire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Derbyshire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Durham
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Gloucestershire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Somerset
HOVE: Sussex v Northamptonshire

University matches
11.30, final day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Middlesex
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Yorkshire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three) Uxbridge CC: Middlesex v Nottinghamshire. Taunton: Somerset v Sussex. Worcester: Worcestershire v Leicestershire.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Salford v Wigan (7.30)
First division
Dewsbury v Swinton (7.45)

HOCKEY

INTER-LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Chelmsford v *Loughborough Students* (11.0). Hampstead and Westminster v Norton (1.0); Robinsons v City of Portsmouth (3.0); Edgbaston v Anchorians (5.0) (at Milton Keynes).

RUGBY UNION

Welsh League
First division
Pontypridd v Neath (7.0)
Dunvant v Bridgend (7.30)
Second division
Aberavon v Cardiff Inst (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (in Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Eastbourne (7.30); Peterborough v Coventry (7.30). Premier League Cup: Edinburgh v Newcastle (7.30); Oxford v Arena Essex (7.45). Amateur League: Belle Vue v Reading and Swindon (9.0).

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (in Manchester)

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity : ROSE ANNE McGUIRE - 3060324
Scheme : Regulating
Reference : ML/14786/CD(Ldn)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at the office of Allen Jay Paine & Co. 273 Green Lanes London N13 4XE, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House 57-60 Haymarket London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Bible and Gospel Trust
Scheme including remuneration of a trustee
Reference: CS-57044-CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at 99 Green Lane, Hounslow, TW4 6BW, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

LEGAL NOTICES

NW10 respectively, having during the last six months carried on the retail trade of Grocers, Newsagents, Tobacconist and Confectioners, do HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is our intention to apply at the Licensing Session for the London Borough of Brent to be held at Brent Magistrates' Court, Church End, 448 High Road, London NW10 on the 13th day of May 1997 for the grant to us of a Justices' Off Licence authorising us to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption off the premises situate at 769/771 Harrow Road, London NW10 and known by the sign of Nina General Stores
Dated this 18TH day of APRIL 1997
P K PATEL Solicitors 15 St Johns Road Harrow Middlesex HA1 2EE AUTHORISED AGENTS OF THE APPLICANTS

PUBLIC NOTICES

AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING
Australian Mutual Provident Society
(including the London Life Fund)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Grand Hall, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, Wembley *HA9 0DW* at 11.00 am on Wednesday 21 May 1997.

1) To discuss the report on AMP's United Kingdom operations for the year ended 31 December 1996.
2) To discuss the report on London Life's operations for the year ended 31 December 1996.
3) To note that Messrs M.R. Bates and G.R. Trumbull will retire by rotation as at 1 July 1997 as members of the UK Board of AMP & London Life, and have indicated to the Principal Board that they are prepared to be reappointed. (See note 5).
4) To note that Mr. C.S.S. Lyon FIA will retire from the UK Board of AMP & London Life at the conclusion of the meeting and that Mr C.D. Lever FIA will be appointed to the UK Board of AMP & London Life at that time.

By order of the United Kingdom Board of AMP and London Life.
S.P.A. Kitson,
Secretary.
6 March 1997

London Life
100 Temple Street
Bristol BS1 6EA

AMP
The Pearl Centre
Lynch Wood
Peterborough PE2 6FY

Notes
1) This meeting has been convened in accordance with the scheme sanctioned by the High Court under section 49 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 on 21 February 1989.
2) Membership: Under AMP's By-laws all policyholders, including holders of policies issued by The London Life *Association Limited, other than chargees, are members of* AMP. Policies issued by any subsidiary of AMP, including those acquired by virtue of the London Life merger, do not confer membership. UK members comprise only persons who are members by virtue of the issue of:
a) a policy written by The London Life Association Limited or written by *AMP* under *the London Life Fund;*
b) other policies in the AMP No 1 Fund which are on the UK register.
Membership of AMP gives you rights under the By-laws of AMP. You may, for instance (unless you are a minor or someone other than the first named of joint holders) vote personally *on a contested election* of directors, and personally or by proxy at general meetings of AMP.
3) UK members will be invited at the meeting to ask questions concerning the matters to be discussed, but no formal resolutions will be proposed or votes taken.
4) Copies of the report and accounts for AMP, a report on the London Life Fund and on AMP's United Kingdom operation for 1996 may be collected from the addresses stated above or will be forwarded upon application to the Secretary, 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA.
5) Members of the United Kingdom Board of AMP and *London Life are appointed by AMP's Principal Board,* which considers recommendations from the United Kingdom Board. On 1 July each year two members of the United Kingdom Board of AMP and London Life will retire by rotation.
6) Postal Voters' Roll: Members entitled to vote may place their name on the *Postal Voters' Roll.* On any contested election of directors to AMP's Principal Board or amendment to AMP's By-laws, these members will be sent documentation enabling them to vote by post.

ADVERTISEMENT OF CREDITORS' MEETING UNDER SECTION 48(2) OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. COMPANY NO: 3053669. REGISTERED IN: ENGLAND & WALES. EURO CORRUGATED CASES LIMITED.
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, at 12.00 noon on Monday, 12 May 1997 for the purpose of having laid before it, a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under *Section 48 of* the said Act. The Meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a Committee to exercise the *functions* conferred on Creditors' Committees by or under the *Act.* Creditors are only entitled to vote if- (a) They have delivered to me at the office of Leonard Curtis & Partners, 3rd Floor, Peter House, Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 5AB, by no later than 1200 hours on Friday, 9 May 1997, written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the Company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the *Insolvency Rules 1986;* and (b) There has been lodged with me any Proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. Date 17 April 1997. C. MacMillan, FCA, Joint Administrative Receiver.

ADVERTISEMENT OF CREDITORS' MEETING UNDER SECTION 48(2) OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. COMPANY NO: 3002140. REGISTERED IN: ENGLAND & WALES. EURO CORRUGATED (UK) LIMITED.
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of *Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne* Terrace, London at 12.30pm on Monday, 12 May 1997 for the purpose of having laid before it, a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48 of the said Act. The Meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a Committee to exercise the functions conferred on Creditors' Committees by or under the Act. Creditors are only entitled to vote if- (a) They have delivered to me at the office of Leonard Curtis & Partners, 3rd Floor, Peter House, Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 5AB, by no later than *1200 hours on Friday,* 9 May 1997, written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the Company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and (b) There has been lodged with me any Proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. Date 17 April 1997. C. MacMillan, FCA, Joint Administrative Receiver.

MOORE PRODUCTS CO (UK) LIMITED PENSION SCHEME
Notice is hereby given to persons who are or were members of the Moore Products (UK) Limited Pension Scheme that the Scheme is being wound up. It is believed that all members of the Scheme and [illegible] benefits under it have been identified and the trustee announce its intention to distribute [illegible] assets of the Scheme to [illegible] who appear to be entitled. [illegible] were a member of the Scheme and believe you may be entitled to benefit from it and you have not been contacted by A M J Gibson Esq of Alexander Clay, Victoria Gate, Chobham [illegible] Woking, Surrey, GU21 1JD [illegible] post notification of your [illegible] specifying your full [illegible] address and full particulars of your membership of the Scheme to A M J Gibson Esq, at the above address so as to reach [illegible] address on or before 27 [illegible] 1997. The Trustees would [illegible] interested to receive notification for any person who [illegible] employed by Moore Products Co (UK) Limited (or its predecessors) on a part time basis [illegible] who is intending to bring a [illegible] based on inequality of treatment. Claims received after the [illegible] date will be excluded from [illegible] calculation of benefits and [illegible] distribution of assets of [illegible] Scheme.
Dated 25 April 1997

NOTICE OF S98 MEETING OF CREDITORS OF BREAKMOVE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
(Formerly known as Integrated Security Limited)
Principle Trading Address: Oliver Grove, 1 High Street, South Norwood, London SE25 6EP
Company Number: 1935370
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The George Hotel, High Street, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1BS on 1 May 1997 at 10.00am for the purposes *mentioned in* Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at Deloitte & Touche, of 63 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1BQ during the two business days preceding the above meeting.
Dated: 16 April 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
G Benson, Director

Notice to Shareholders of Norton Group Plc
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY No. 21 of 1994
IN THE MATTER OF NORTON GROUP PLC
(IN LIQUIDATION)
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT, 1986
Notice is hereby given that the Official Receiver intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for his release as *Liquidator.* Any objection you may have to the granting of his release should be notified to the Secretary of State, The Insolvency Service, Department of Trade and Industry, 2nd Floor, Ladywood House, 45/6 Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4UP within 21 days of publication of this notice.
Date: 17 April 1997
P CRAIG, Official Receiver
Ladywood House
45/6 Stephenson Street
Birmingham, B2 4UP

THE WEISS GALLERY LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named company are required to lodge proof of their debt with me at 115 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0QT on or [illegible] day of May 1997 [illegible] date for proving [illegible] to declare and [illegible] and final dividend [illegible] period of four [illegible] last date for [illegible] any creditor who [illegible] a claim by the [illegible] excluded from [illegible] the winding up of [illegible] members voluntary [illegible]. The distribution [illegible] made is to be the [illegible] in the winding [illegible] company and [illegible] Liquidator may [illegible] distribution without [illegible] claims of any debts [illegible]
[illegible] of April 1997.

JACKMACE LIMITED
Notice is hereby given in [illegible] Section 175 of [illegible] Act 1985 that [illegible] named company [illegible] has approved [illegible] a payment [illegible] for the purpose of [illegible] own shares by [illegible]
[illegible] the permissible [illegible] for the shares in [illegible] £21,427;
[illegible] the resolution for [illegible] capital is 21st [illegible]
[illegible] declaration and [illegible] required by section [illegible] Companies Act [illegible] for inspection [illegible] registered [illegible]
[illegible] of the Company [illegible] within the five [illegible] following the [illegible] resolution for payment [illegible] apply to the [illegible] section 176 of the [illegible] 1985 for an order [illegible] payment.
[illegible] on behalf of [illegible]
[illegible] 1997

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
I, MICHAEL FRANCIS MULVANEY residing at 23 Fernwood Avenue, Sudbury Town, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2HF, having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of Manager, and being a person interested in the premises described below do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the Transfer Sessions for the said Division to be held at Brent Magistrates' Court, The Court House, Church End, 448 High Road, Willesden, London NW10 on the 13th day of May 1997 for the provisional grant to me of a Justices' Licence authorising me to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption ON the premises about to be altered or extended for the purpose of being used as a house for the sale of intoxicating liquor situated at 122/124 CRAVEN PARK ROAD, HARLESDEN, LONDON NW10 and to be known by the sign of DEVINES, of which premises KERSEY PROPERTIES LIMITED are the owners.
DATED the 17th day of April 1997
Hodders, 11 Station Road, Harlesden, London NW10 4UD.
Solicitors and Agents for the Applicants

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
I, KAL JANG ANG KAWANG LAMA now residing at 210 Preston Road, North Wembley, Middlesex, having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of *Assistant Manager,* and being a person interested in the premises described below do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the Transfer Sessions for the said Division to be held at The Court House, Church End, 448 High Road, Willesden, London NW10 on the 13th day of May 1997 for the provisional grant to me of a Justices' Licence authorising me to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption ON the premises about to be altered or extended for the purpose of being used as a house for the sale of intoxicating liquor situated at 210 PRESTON ROAD, NORTH WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX and to be known by the sign of *SPICE OF PRESTON,* of which premises Cobus Properties Limited is the owner.
DATED this 1st day of April 1997
Hodders, 11 Station Road, Harlesden,
London NW10 4UD.
Solicitors and *Agents* for the Applicants

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Mrs. Caroline Emily Lake deceased.
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925, that all persons having claims against or an interest in the Estate of the above named who died on the 6th April 1997, are hereby required to send to the undermentioned before the 29th June 1997, particulars in writing of their claims or interests; after which date the Estate will be distributed by the Personal Representative among the persons entitled thereto; having regard only to the claims and interests then notified.
Dated this 25 day of April 1997
Mrs. F. Brewer, Sun Valley, Tregenna Lane, Blisland, Cornwall PL30 4JB
(Appointed Personal Representative)

هكذا في الاصل

PERONI NASTRO AZZURRO: THE GREAT ITALIAN PREMIUM BEER
SPONSOR OF THE 54TH ITALIAN OPEN

CRICKET

Nixon provides reminder of champions' style

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

LEICESTER (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 54 runs behind Leicestershire

THERE were many times last year when the majority questioned Leicestershire's ability to win the championship, and the same old doubts have resurfaced on each of the first two days of this new season. However, the mark of champions is to win when playing poorly, and that is what should now happen here.

An hour after lunch yesterday, Leicestershire's prospects were as bleak as the skies over Grace Road. Their last pair were together and they trailed Gloucestershire, a team surely bound for the wrong end of the table, by 39 runs. On a pitch where the odd ball keeps disconcertingly low, this was an unpromising position.

The legacies of winning the title, however, include an unquenchable spirit and, here, it was exemplified by Paul Nixon. For more than two hours, this virtue was restated in a last-wicket stand that adjourned on 99, when bad light drew a merciful veil over Gloucestershire's efforts, and finally totalled 101.

Nixon is a combative player, one of the best batting wicketkeepers around, and few will be surprised by his contribution. For a partner, however, he had the fledgeling James Ormond, whose known credentials can be gauged from the fact that he batted behind Alan Mullally. The order may rapidly be revised, for Ormond showed poise, patience and a serviceable technique while making 35 in his initial first-class innings.

When Leicestershire's total reached the unimagined riches of 300, it was acclaimed by wild yelling and an impromptu dance routine from the resident cheerleader, Lewis — a red-shirted gentleman who is proving a worthy successor, at least in volume, to the character known as "Foghorn", whose voice ruled this ground in the 1970s.

Until this point, Lewis had been conspicuously quiet, but, while he celebrated, Gloucestershire's players stared at each other, hands on hips, as cricketers tend to do when the tenth wicket embarrasses them. This, however, may not be the last fruitless session that they endure this summer. The loss of Courtney Walsh — still expected back for a testimonial next year — is a mortal blow to them.

Maddy: frustration

Without him, their bowling has no edge and, although April is hardly the time to condemn, Shaun Young does not look the man to provide it. He did not take a wicket here and looked more support than spearhead. His pace is comparable with that of Mike Smith and, for 28 overs against the last pair, he was not even used. No wonder the county is keen to believe in David Lawrence's comeback.

They have, at least, been competitive in this game, even if it is difficult to see where any weight of runs and wickets will come from over the summer. Alleyne, the new captain, was their best bowler, maintaining a fuller, more effective length than Leicestershire had done on Wednesday and taking his third wicket when he knocked out James Whitaker's middle stump.

Though nothing happened too quickly on this surface, the ball swung and seamed appreciably and only Darren Maddy proceeded without problems. He made 80, in four hours, and the disgust he displayed after toe-ending a slip catch from a ball he need not have played was a measure of his ambition — this he viewed as a lost opportunity rather than a comfortable start to the season.

A poorly-conceived cut from Macmillan had given Hancock a rare wicket and, after lunch, spin gained its first reward when Martyn Ball took two wickets in successive overs. The Gloucestershire batsmen began their limbering up, but they were still going through the motions after the delayed tea interval had come and gone.

When their chance came at last, only two overs were possible before the light closed in again. However, weather permitting, this is a game the champions believe they will win.

Sri Lanka lose spinner

MUTTIAH Muralitharan, the only Sri Lanka bowler to have taken more than 100 Test wickets, has been ruled out of the second Test match against Pakistan, which starts in Colombo tomorrow.

Muralitharan has strained a muscle near his rib cage. He has been replaced by Ruwan Kalpage, the off spinner, in a 14-man squad for the final match in a two-game series. Another casualty is Nuwan Zoysa, the left-arm seam bowler, who has pulled a thigh muscle and has been replaced by Sajeeva de Silva.

Arjuna Ranatunga has been retained as captain of Sri Lanka for the Asia Cup tournament in India and the tour to West Indies in June.

☐ India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the winners of the ICC Trophy, will participate in the Asia Cup, which starts on May 9.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Taylor cracks Snape for four through the off side at Hove yesterday on his way to a century for Sussex

Taylor made for second coming

By Simon Wilde

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 29 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

THE trouble with some English cricketers is that they never know when they are finished. A year ago, Neil Taylor was apparently in the twilight of his career, his superfluity to a Kent side about to mount a sustained challenge for the championship betrayed by his appointment as second XI captain. He did not play a first-team match all summer.

Sussex, though, remembered Taylor's pedigree when they cast about frantically for recruits during the winter. While Alan Wells went from Hove to Canterbury, Taylor eagerly made the reverse journey, and it may not be such a ludicruously one-sided exchange as some first thought. Yesterday, Taylor scored 127 to help Sussex to keep their noses in front in their match with Northamptonshire.

This was the second time that Taylor, 37, has scored a century on his first-class debut for a county, having done so for Kent against the touring Sri Lankans 18 years ago. The last Sussex man to mark his first appearance with a hundred was Hugh Bartlett, 60 years ago. Taylor now has 43 centuries to his credit, the same number as Wells — and Taylor has played 516 innings to Wells's 538.

At Kent, Taylor was believed to be the victim of a personality clash with Daryl Foster, then the coach. He was perceived to have a weakness against fast bowling, but there was no sign of it yesterday as he hooked, pulled and drove Mohammad Akram, who did not justify claims that he is quicker than Wasim and Waqar, but was nevertheless decidedly sharp.

"If you average 40 in first-class cricket, you just cannot be a bad player of fast bowling," Tony Pigott, the acting chief executive of Sussex, said. "There's nowhere to hide when you do that much batting. Neil is just what we need. He is greedy for runs and will bat all day for us."

Taylor has something of a reputation for slow scoring, but he was no slouch yesterday and moved from 104 to 122 courtesy of four boundaries in one over from Snape, who, like Emburey, found a dry pitch offering frustratingly little turn. Taylor hit 20 fours and a six in a stay of little more than four hours at the crease.

No less significant, perhaps, to Sussex's long-term prosperity was the batting of Keith Newell, who confirmed his promise with a championship-best 91 not out. He arrived at the crease after Akram, having removed Greenfield in his first spell, had returned to extract Athey. With Sussex on 137 for three, Northamptonshire might have poured through the breach, but Newell stayed firm then and for the next four hours.

It was a frustrating day for Northamptonshire, who found their opponents far less pliant than expected. Only some sharp work in the field kept them in the game: Snape completed a good diving catch in the gully to remove Taylor and Warren a sharp stumping off Emburey to remove Moores, so that, with Drakes making only a brief stay, Sussex were still 12 runs behind with four wickets left. Newell and Jarvis, however, added 41 vital runs in the last 12 overs of the day.

Taylor's was the second excellent debut performance for Sussex in the match. Robinson picked up the one remaining Northamptonshire wicket — Snape for 55, which equalled his championship best — to finish with six for 78.

Law makes haste to confirm his attacking reputation

By Ivo Tennant

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Essex, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 458 runs ahead of Hampshire

ESSEX captains, when they are pressed as to their prospects of winning a championship, tend to speak in football jargon. In Paul Prichard's estimation, to say nothing of that of the bookmakers, they do indeed have a chance. That is not least because they possess batsmen such as Ronnie Irani and Stuart Law who can, as they showed yesterday, score runs with alacrity.

To think that Law, a batsman who made 12 centuries last season, one in which he spent a month in Sri Lanka, is not considered among Australia's best 17 cricketers. However many runs Matthew Hayden thinks he will score this summer, Law is likely to manage even more. Essex, with the exception of Hugh Page a decade ago, have not erred when choosing their overseas players.

Law added 128 in 165 balls with Irani in the afternoon, which in all probability will prove to be the decisive partnership of the match. There was still some help for Hampshire's attack both in the pitch and the atmosphere: the difference now was that their bowlers did not make the same use of it as on Wednesday. And neither batsman let them. Also, Prichard made his second half-century in successive days and Gooch, too, was in some form.

He had twice square cut Stephenson, his old opening partner, to the boundary when in the same over, he shuffled in front of a straight one and was leg-before. Hussain, likewise, did not manage to build a substantial innings, James having him leg-before. It should be said that he was well forward.

After lunch, Law, partnered first by Prichard and then by Irani, inexorably built up a considerable lead. Law arrived in Essex from Australia only the day before this match, but jet lagged or not, he struck 12 fours in an innings of 78 off 89 balls.

Tiredness, frustration with having to contend with a fielder on the boundary at point, or, perhaps, the sheer ease with which he was making his runs, led to his dismissal. Looking to flick a short ball from Stephenson over the slips, Law was taken at the wicket. It had been a lovely innings.

Irani's concern after that must have been that he would run out of partners. Robinson went first ball and Danny Law was nicely taken by Keech at second slip. Hyam also followed but Ilott provided the necessary support. At the close, Irani was five runs short of a century, having struck 14 fours off 163 balls. And most of them were struck pretty hard.

In the morning, Essex had gained a first innings lead of 85 when they removed the last three Hampshire batsmen. Ilott took two wickets and the gangly Cowan had Aymes taken by Hyam, beaten by the bounce. That gave Cowan career best figures of five for 49.

Fully recovered from a toe operation, he is, as the cricket magazines like to say, one to watch. Graham Gooch respects his ability and that is the commendation he needs above all others.

There should be more wickets for him today, when Hampshire will be left to make a total of around 500 to win. It is the ideal opportunity for Hayden to show that he, too, should not have been omitted from Australia's touring party.

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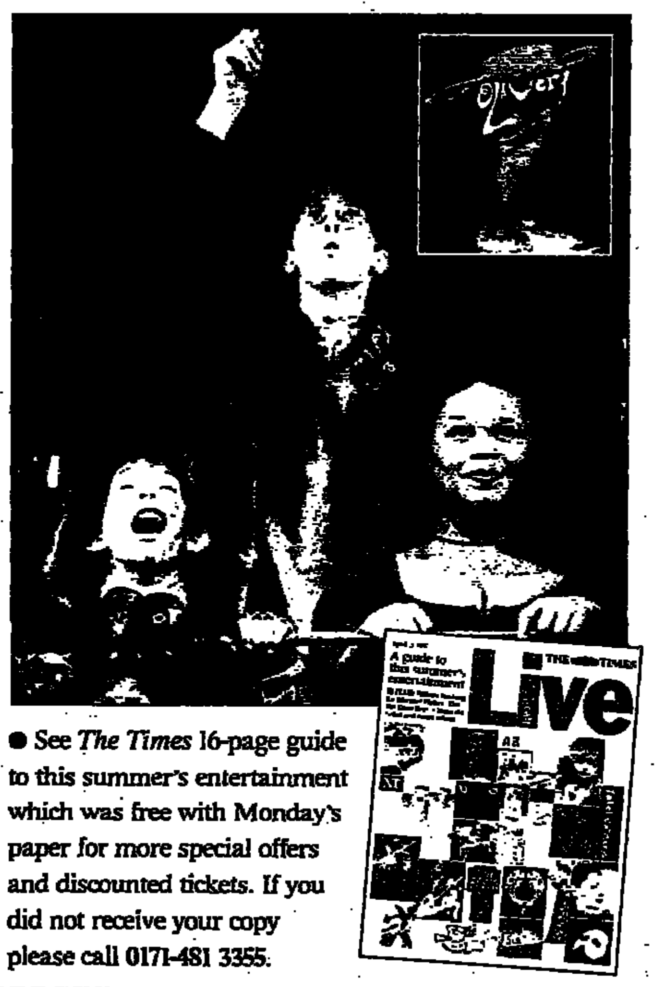

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CHANGING TIMES

Brain before bravado puts DeFreitas in control

By Pat Gibson

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 177 runs ahead of Derbyshire

THERE was a time when Phillip DeFreitas would have reacted to the sight of Devon Malcolm and Martin McCague hurling down their thunderbolts by trying to prove that he could bowl as fast as either of them. Not any more.

They still call him "Daffy", but he bowls with more brain than bravado these days and it is just as well for Derbyshire that he does, otherwise Trevor Ward, of Kent, arguably the best uncapped batsman in the country, would have taken this game away from them by now.

Ward could yet do that because he was still going strong on 95 at the close, but at least DeFreitas has given Derbyshire a fighting chance with a high-class exhibition of seam bowling that brought him four wickets, three of them, all leg before, in the space of five balls.

It was in total contrast to what had gone before. McCague had answered Malcolm's six for 74 by bowling with just as much pace and hostility and, when he took his fourth wicket with his first ball yesterday to reduce Derbyshire to 44 for five, it looked as though it was all going to be down to the speed merchants.

Then Clarke, making a good impression in his first championship innings for his third county, and Cork, showing that, whatever is ailing him, there is nothing wrong with his spirit, applied the brake in a six-wicket partnership of 65.

Both eventually fell to Headley, who bowled some fairly rapid balls of his own, but he could not shake Krikken, the wicketkeeper with the farmer's gait and the town cryer's bellow, who epitomises the commitment of this Derbyshire side.

Strang's leg spin, deployed for the first time in county cricket, was treated with something close to contempt whenever it was pitched short as Krikken clubbed nine fours in 61 before Strang took his revenge by running him out with a direct hit from backward point. By then, however, DeFreitas had helped Krikken to add valuable runs and, when the dedicated Dean and the flailing Malcolm put on an improbable 31, the last five wickets had produced 204 runs and trimmed Kent's lead to a mere three.

All eyes then turned to Malcolm again, but sadly the magic of the previous day had left him already. He did strike one blow on Fulton's little finger that forced the opener to retire hurt, but it was not until DeFreitas was introduced that Derbyshire got a wicket.

Llong, who had taken 49 minutes to get off the mark, was deceived by his slower ball and caught at cover and then the returning Fulton, Wells and Fleming were all trapped leg before, plumb in front.

Ealham prevented the hat-trick, but he soon fell chasing a wide one from Dean and it was left to Ward, playing in a different league to any other batsman in the match, to make sure that Kent retained the initiative. At the close of play, he had made his 95 off only 109 balls and struck 18 fours.

Boon fights rearguard action alone

By Derek Hodgson

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs behind Lancashire

DAVID BOON has given many an Australian innings the solidity of Ayers Rock; now he has to provide Durham with something of the durability of their cathedral, shoring up a batting order that too often seems eroded by the Lambton Worm.

That much, with a valiant, unbeaten 85, he did on a day when all was against his team. Facing Lancashire's enormous total, Durham had to bat under day-long grey cloud that helped the ball swing, in poor light that led to three stoppages, and carrying the handicap of John Morris's badly-bruised right thumb.

They could not even start on the field at strength, Simon Brown having a strain, while Glen Chapple and Peter Martin had enlarged their last-wicket stand of 134 by another 12 until it reached the highest recorded last-wicket partnership at the ground.

The second delivery with the new ball ended Durham's torment and Durham then had 15 overs of comparative relief, relative happiness. Jonathan Lewis began merrily against the hostile Chapple, cutting him for three fours in one over, and 57 had been raised in 16 overs when one of Ian Austin's niggling seamers trapped Paul Collingwood.

Four runs later, with Chapple switching ends, Lewis's perky defiance was ended by a shattering yorker that was into the batsman's bootstraps before he could move his feet. Encouraged, Chapple then gave his former team-mate, Nick Speak, a ferocious greeting on his return to a ground that had been his home for a decade.

Chapple was genuinely quick at times, looking as though he might again find the form of two years ago, when he and Darren Gough were hailed as the new Statham and Trueman.

Soon after lunch, Morris had his thumb struck by Austin, which left Durham effectively 71 for three. Boon and Speak held on for 17 overs as Lancashire rotated their seamers, Mike Watkinson as a medium, breaking through when Speak, losing patience, was taken at first slip, cutting. Watkinson also had to retire with a strained arm.

Martin Speight would not have been recognised at Hove, revealing an unexpected obduracy in scoring three in 12 overs, by which time Gary Yates was seeking turn and flight. He dismissed Speight with a looping arm ball; three runs later, Mel Betts was confounded by another yorker from Chapple. Morris returned for one run before tea and then retired again, which left the captain-manager and the tail to battle on.

Boon has so far faced 146 balls and hit 11 fours and a straight six off Yates, otherwise he was mostly cuts and turns. "We've got to learn to close them down," he told his weary troops after the first day. Now he has to show them how to open up.

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CRICKET

Painful end to record contribution by Morris

By John Thicknesse

CARDIFF (second day of four): Warwickshire, with nine-second innings wickets in hand, are 385 runs behind Glamorgan

HUGH MORRIS made his highest score in 16 years as a professional yesterday at Cardiff, an all-but-flawless 233 which was also his 50th first-class hundred. Rather than celebrating with an evening on the tiles, however, the 33-year-old left-hander was left with another type of headache — the kind a batsman gets when he loses sight of a ball from Allan Donald and takes a sharp blow to the skull.

Quick as the South Africa fast bowler is, in a sense the most surprising feature of the accident was that a batsman of Morris's unblinking concentration could fail to pick him up in bright sunshine after batting for 561 minutes.

Turning his back, he was struck on the helmet behind the right ear, sinking to the ground but never losing consciousness. After attention from Dean Conway, the Glamorgan physiotherapist, Morris was taken from the field on a stretcher and driven to hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

Aside from Andy Moles being missed at short-leg off an easy chance when Warwickshire, 400 behind, began their long haul to try to save the game, Morris's injury was the sole blemish on Glamorgan's day.

Helped by Steve Watkin prolonging his nightwatchman's stint till 12.30, they lost only one more wicket in 4½ hours, Morris and Adrian Dale cashing in on what had become a perfect pitch for batting in a stand of 242 made at 4.4 runs an over.

Dale's 106, off 171 balls, was his thirteenth hundred, an innings well suited to the match-position. Inevitably, he needed more luck than the the solid, ever-watchful Morris in that he gave two chances, at 46 overhead and quick to Ostler in the slips, and at 77 when Piper fluffed an easy stumping.

Maynard eventually called a halt half an hour after Morris's retirement, leaving tired opponents ten overs to hold out. Wasim Khan played on in Darren Thomas's second over, but in Watkin's next Moles was badly missed by Wayne Law, the substitute, two-handed at short-leg.

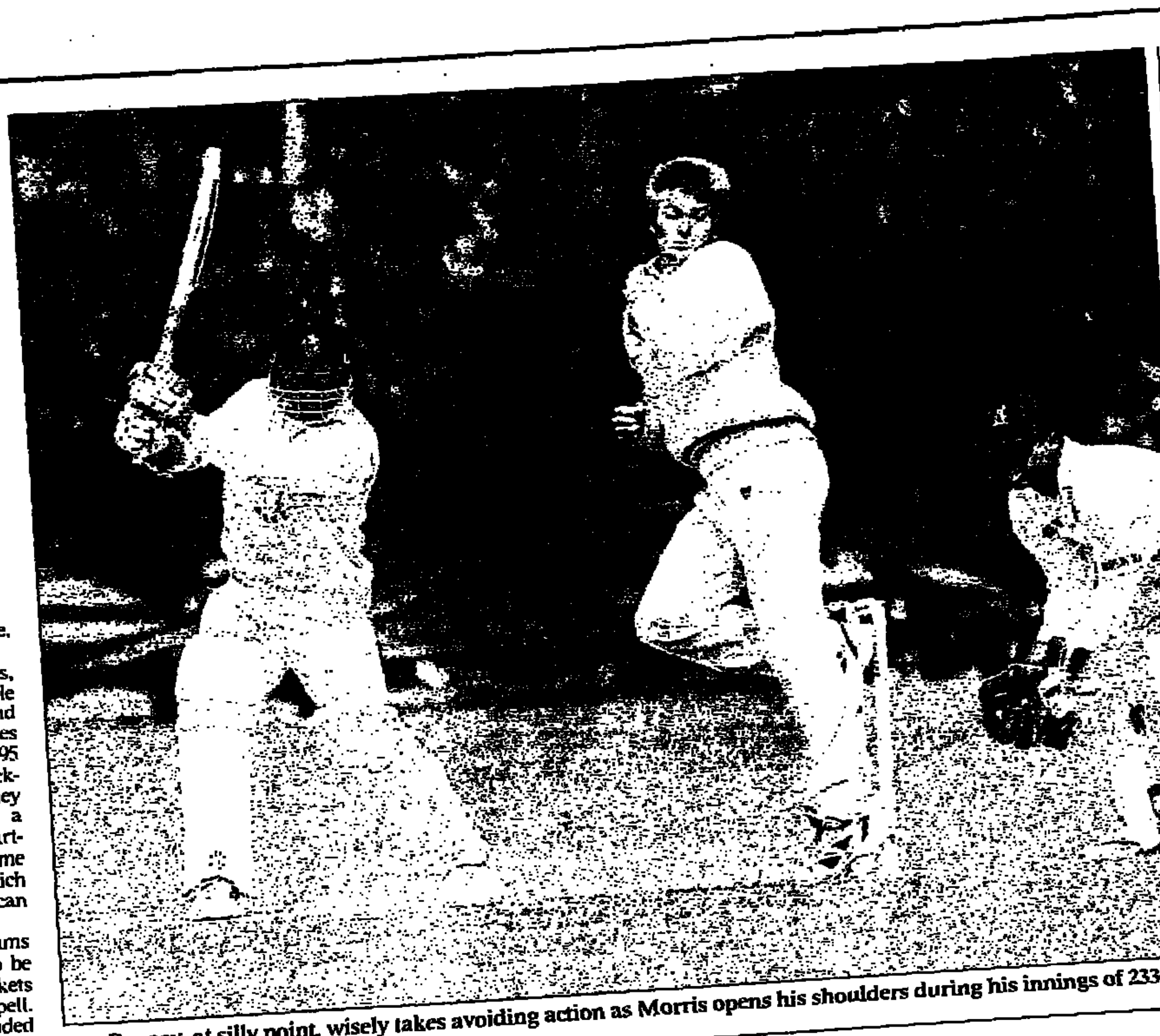
Judged solely on figures, Glamorgan stagnated while Watkin was batting, he and Morris taking 90 minutes adding 54 to Wednesday's 195 for one. By denying Warwickshire the breakthrough they had to have to gain a fingerhold, however, the partnership was actually a prime example of the extent to which a resolute nightwatchman can influence a match.

It was obvious to both teams that the day was likely to be shaped by how many wickets Donald took in his first spell. In the event, even one eluded him. With a blustery south-westerly behind him, the great South African bowled seven rapid overs — and Watkin bore the brunt of them, 27 balls compared with Morris's 15. Watkin was occasionally beaten, playing and missing six times, mostly to balls that whistled past chest-high. Far from backing out of line, though, the lanky former England seamer's body-language left little doubt he was enjoying every minute.

It was a lovely spell to watch by Donald. No fast bowler since Holding has covered the ground so gracefully or rhythmically. Tidy, too — only four singles and a two. But the nearest he came to taking the wicket Warwickshire needed came when Morris stabbed down only just in time on a round-the-wicket yorker — Donald's usual line to him.

Warwickshire's vocal support was ceaseless. But everyone fell quiet when, early in the second hour, Watkin drove Giles, the slow left-armer over extra-cover and to the sightscreen off successive balls. They knew then there could be no way back.

Watkin stuck around long enough to see Morris past his hundred, batting 79 balls for his 18. By the time he drove Giles low to Small at backward point, though, Glamorgan's consolidation was complete, Morris and Dale acknowledging as much by blazing 67 off the last 11 overs of the morning. That Morris needed 60 more balls for his second 50 than his first, 155 compared with 95, was testimony to his single-mindedness and patience. Had he won the caps his qualities deserved, England's Test record in the 1990s could only read better than it does.



Penney, at silly point, wisely takes avoiding action as Morris opens his shoulders during his innings of 233

Rose rips out Surrey's faint heart

By Michael Henderson

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 291 runs behind Somerset

ON THE evidence of the first two days of this match, Surrey are charlatans. After Somerset had taken their first innings to 463 — 86 of them in extras, a world record — they ripped out the heart of Surrey's much-vaunted batting after tea to give themselves an excellent chance of victory.

In these early weeks of summer there will be much talk of young men with reputations to make. But there is still room in the game for the player whose hopes of promotion evaporated some time ago, and yet retains his professional pride. Yesterday, Graham Rose stood up for his kind.

There was a time, not so long ago, when Rose was considered for England's one-day team, as a clean-striking batsman who could turn his arm over. He is 33 now, and finds himself batting at No 8, two places lower than he might like, so his value to Somerset lies at least as much in his bowling.

When Bowler, Somerset's new captain, switched him to the pavilion end after tea, he responded immediately by taking the wickets of Thorpe, Stewart and Hollioake inside nine balls without conceding a run. He swung the ball both ways, defeating the England pair with balls that came into them, and surprising Hollioake with a short ball that the Surrey captain could only jab involuntarily back to the bowler.

Within the space of two overs, Rose changed the shape of the game. Surrey had started their innings at a fair old lick, assisted by Shine, who seemed determined to show everybody what an ordinary bowler he is. Bicknell, feasting on the choicest tripe, put salt and pepper on his plate and savoured five successive boundaries.

Steve Herzberg, an off spinner of slender means, ended the opening stand with his first ball, a full toss that Bicknell belted back to him, and then had Butcher stumped. It was a good day for Herzberg, a 29-year-old Anglo-Australian, who begins his third career in England after gracing the second teams of Worcestershire and Kent.

He had earlier shared a ninth-wicket stand of 109 with Harden, finishing one run short of his best score in first-class cricket. Harden, employing a runner after twisting his ankle on the first day, batted 12 minutes short of eight hours for his unbeaten 136.

Bowen hurries up Worcestershire

By Jack Bailey

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with seven first-innings wickets standing, are 221 runs behind Worcestershire

HEAVEN only knows where this game is heading. The leisurely tempo with which Worcestershire have conducted affairs, both at the crease and in the field, seemed to have left Nottinghamshire with little alternative but to go for a really big total and aim for an innings win. As far as that went, Tim Robinson and Paul Pollard gave them a head start with a partnership of 173 for the first wicket after Mark Bowen's five wickets in the day had sent Worcestershire into sharp decline on a fine pitch for batting.

But, although Pollard and Robinson batted with an ease portrayed by none of the Worcestershire batsmen, save only Moody in mid-innings, both were out before the end. The left-handed Pollard was seeking pastures new during the close season. If he continues in this vein, both he and Nottinghamshire will be glad that he failed to find them.

As for Robinson, well, he was the old phlegmatic Robinson in conditions and against opposition that suited him ideally. Both innings were chanceless, but with both of them and Archer out before the close, Worcestershire gained some consolation from the day.

Worcestershire's intentions of building on a laboriously achieved but solid foundation on Wednesday were confounded by some lively swing bowling from Bowen. Moody's half-century from 98 balls coincided exactly with the raising of Worcestershire's 300, and of the captain's hundred partnership with Curtis. With only three wickets down, the innings seemed set fair, but first Bowen removed Curtis's middle stump, and then plucked out Moody's with a real beauty.

When Evans tempted Rhodes to drive early, and then Solanki was bowled by one that nipped back, Nottinghamshire were seeing some reward for their persistance. By lunch, Newport had also succumbed, Worcestershire had lost five monring wickets for 93, and Bowen's excellent spell had yielded 4 for 17 from 41 balls.

A last-wicket stand of 37 between Lampitt and Sheriyar eased Worcestershire past the 400 mark, but the total was below reasonable expectations. Pollard and Robinson did nothing to ease Worcestershire's disappointment.

Cambridge batsmen pay penalty for driving carelessly

By Richard Hobson

FENNER'S (second day of three): Middlesex, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 278 runs ahead of Cambridge University

NO SIDE enjoying the tutelage of Derek Randall could ever be dull. Yet it is possible to stretch the desire to play positively beyond sensible limits and Cambridge University fell into that trap here yesterday.

As Randall fed a bowling machine adjacent to the outfield, a succession of batsmen suggested that the greatest need was for a refresher session on the merits of defensive play.

Five of the top six reached 30, all with a certain panache. None, however, completed a half-century let alone played the lengthy innings that Cambridge required to get within range of the Middlesex first innings total.

Phil Tufnell spent most of the time skulking around the outfield with his hands in his pockets trying to disguise his boredom. Perhaps he has been held back for a long spell in the second innings. Weather permitting, and the forecast is not encouraging, he ought to prove too wily for the students today.

Dave Churton and Anurag Singh set the tone for the first session, adding 46 for the third wicket in just nine overs. Richard Johnson, in particular, allowed the batsmen enough leeway to encourage the drive and so competently did the pair take advantage that there seemed little likelihood of three wickets falling before lunch to front-foot forcing strokes, which was what occurred.

Whether through overconfidence or poor judgment, Cambridge lost their way. Churton succumbed to a routine catch by Keith Brown, the wicket-keeper, before Singh and Will House, who will join Warwickshire and Kent respectively for the second half of the season, were caught in the covers attempting to attack the friendly off spin purveyed by Paul Weekes.

Rob Jones was equally culpable, cutting carelessly to point, and, after Imran Mohammed, son of Sadiq, the former Pakistan opening batsman, located mid-off with a weak attempt at a lofted drive, Middlesex quickly scythed through the tail.

Extending their overall lead from 124 towards 300 proved no more testing in the final session, Weekes completing a century in 136 minutes, including 18 fours and a six, before falling to a superb catch by Jones at mid-wicket off the final ball of the day.

Dark Blues give Parker opportunity to display his talents

By Barney Spender

THE PARKS (second day of three): Yorkshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 496 runs ahead of Oxford University

WITH a great sense of timing, Bradley Parker chose yesterday, the day that Darren Lehmann, the Australian signed as Yorkshire's overseas player, arrived in England, to post his second century for Yorkshire, an attractive and forthright unbeaten 138.

Coupled with Michael Vaughan's 109, Parker took advantage of three dropped chances to destroy the inexperienced Oxford attack. The pair added 230 to put Yorkshire in an impregnable position. Already leading by 221 on first innings, they were 275 for two at the close.

For Parker it was a joyous afternoon. His Yorkshire career nearly ended at the end of the 1995 season with a move to Durham, but when that fell through he stayed on to complete his contract. One outing last year brought a fifty against South Africa A and now he appears to have inched his way towards a regular first-team position.

The irony, of course, is that despite his one six and 21 fours, he may well find himself carrying the drinks for Lehmann in the Benson and Hedges game here tomorrow.

The one Yorkshireman to miss out in the run glut was Craig White, who opened. In the fourth over, and with just six to his name, he had his stumps scattered by Chris Battarbee.

Battarbee, incidentally, is in danger of becoming something of a cult figure here. A third-year geography student, he has been described by team management as coming from another planet.

Instantly recognisable because of his ponytail, he has done a great deal for team spirit, although it is unlikely that any of his team-mates ever went out to bat with their hair tied up with Christmas wrapping tape, as Battarbee did yesterday.

Sauntering in at No 11, he actually played rather well for his ten not out, which was more than could be said for his colleagues.

Gough and Silverwood made early inroads but when Wagh, who had played soundly for 35, gave Blakey his 500th dismissal for Yorkshire, the wheels came off.

Richard Stemp was the bowler and he picked up wickets in each of his next two overs without discernibly turning the ball. Flight was enough for the panicky students, who collapsed for 214.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Hampshire

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Essex, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 458 runs ahead of Hampshire

ESSEX: First Innings 248 (P J Prichard 65, C A Connor 7 for 46)

Second Innings

G A Gooch lbw b Stephenson	34
*P J Prichard b James	56
N Hussain lbw b James	22
S G Law c Aymes b Stephenson	78
R C Irani not out	95
D D J Robinson c Keech b James	0
D R Law c Keech b Mascarenhas	13
†B J Hyam c Laney b Stephenson	1
M C Ilott not out	34
Extras (b 1, lb 15, nb 24)	40
Total (7 wkts)	373

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-65, 2-126, 3-139, 4-267, 5-276, 6-300, 7-307.

BOWLING: Connor 12-0-66-0; Milburn 11-0-75-0, Stephenson 20-3-74-3; James 15-0-64-3, Mascarenhas 15-2-48-1; Udal 10-2-30-0

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

M L Hayden c Hyam b Cowan	18
J S Laney c S G Law b Cowan	3
*J P Stephenson c Robinson b Irani	11
M Keech c Gooch b Cowan	21
W S Kendall lbw b D R Law	9
K D James b Irani	4
†A N Aymes not out	33
S D Udal b Cowan	13
A D Mascarenhas c Hyam b Cowan	12
S M Milburn c Hyam b Ilott	7
C A Connor lbw b Ilott	11
Extras (b 2, lb 8, nb 8)	18
Total (60.1 overs)	161

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-27, 3-51, 4-73, 5-73, 6-81, 7-94, 8-122, 9-139.

BOWLING: Ilott 15.1-2-37-2, Cowan 21-6-49-5, Irani 15-7-23-2; D R Law 9-2-42-1

Bonus points: Essex 5 Hampshire 4

Umpires: J C Balderstone and V A Holder

Glamorgan v Warwickshire

CARDIFF (second day of four): Warwickshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 385 runs behind Glamorgan

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 151 (S D Thomas 4 for 62)

Second Innings

*A J Moles not out	9
W G Khan b Thomas	0
G Welch not out	6
Total (1 wkt)	15

FALL OF WICKET: 1-6

BOWLING: Watkin 5-1-7-0; Thomas 4-2-8-1, Croft 1-1-0-0

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James b Donald	83
H Morris retired hurt	233
S L Watkin c Small b Giles	18
A Dale c Ostler b Welch	106
*M P Maynard not out	20
P A Cottey not out	20
Extras (b 6, lb 27, w 2, nb 36)	71
Total (3 wkts dec)	551

Score at 120 overs: 388-2

G P Butcher, †A D Shaw, R D B Croft, S D Thomas and D A Cosker did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-190, 2-249, 3-491

BOWLING: Donald 33-12-82-1, Small 22-3-80-0, Welch 33-8-135-1, Giles 38-11-116-1, Smith 26-3-97-0, Hemp 2-0-28-0.

Bonus points: Glamorgan 8 Warwickshire 0

Umpires: M J Kitchen and D J Constant

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 177 runs ahead of Derbyshire

KENT: First Innings 251 (M A Ealham 72 not out, S A Marsh 57, D E Malcolm 6 for 74)

Second Innings

D P Fulton lbw b DeFreitas	29
N J Llong c Jones b DeFreitas	12
T R Ward not out	95
A P Wells lbw b DeFreitas	0
M V Fleming lbw b DeFreitas	0
M A Ealham c Cork b Dean	8
P A Strang not out	29
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (5 wkts)	174

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-79, 3-79, 4-79, 5-120.

BOWLING: Cork 15-4-36-0; Malcolm 8-0-50-0; DeFreitas 13-2-47-4, Dean 6-0-27-1, Clarke 1-0-13-0

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

K J Barnett c Marsh b McCague	9
A S Rollins c Llong b McCague	1
C J Adams b McCague	10
*D M Jones c Fulton b Headley	5
V P Clarke c Ward b Headley	40
A N Hayhurst c Ward b McCague	6
D G Cork c Patel b Headley	32
†K M Krikken run out	61
P A J DeFreitas b Headley	24
K J Dean c Marsh b McCague	14
D E Malcolm not out	21
Extras (b 4, lb 9, nb 12)	25
Total (71.1 overs)	248

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-21, 3-30, 4-30, 5-44, 6-109, 7-138, 8-204, 9-217

BOWLING: McCague 20.1-2-75-5; Headley 26-3-81-4; Ealham 3-0-20-0; Strang 15-7-37-0; Fleming 7-0-22-0

Bonus points: Kent 6 Derbyshire 5

Umpires: K E Palmer and P Willey

Lancashire v Durham

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

J E R Gallian c Speight b Brown	78
M A Atherton c Speight b Wood	15
J P Crawley lbw b Betts	19
N H Fairbrother c Boiling b Brown	21
G D Lloyd c Wood b Collingwood	102
*M Watkinson c Wood b Campbell	51
I D Austin b Collingwood	29
†W K Hegg c Speak b Collingwood	22
G Yates b Boiling	6
G Chapple c Lewis b Betts	66
P J Martin not out	78
Extras (b 2, lb 7, nb 10)	19
Total (100.2 overs)	506

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-97, 3-138, 4-155, 5-245, 6-315, 7-328, 8-353, 9-380

BOWLING: Brown 28-5-93-2, Betts 20.2-2-114-2; Wood 13-1-70-1, Campbell 12-0-92-1, Boiling 17-3-82-1, Collingwood 12-2-46-3

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis b Chapple	44
P D Collingwood lbw b Austin	13
J E Morris retired hurt	8
N J Speak c Fairbrother b Watkinson	21
*D C Boon not out	85
†M P Speight c Hegg b Yates	3
M M Betts b Chapple	1
J Boiling c Lloyd b Martin	5
J Wood not out	13
Extras (b 5, lb 1, nb 2)	8
Total (6 wkts, 74.2 overs)	201

S J E Brown and C L Campbell to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-61, 3-115, 4-143, 5-146, 6-169

BOWLING: Chapple 23-2-95-2; Martin 20-9-31-1, Austin 14.1-6-28-1, Gallian 2-0-12-0; Watkinson 4.5-1-10-1, Yates 10-4-19-1

Bonus points: Lancashire 6 Durham 5

Umpires: G I Burgess and R Palmer

Leicestershire v Gloucestershire

LEICESTER (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 54 runs behind Leicestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 245 (S Young 59, R C Russell 57, A D Mullally 5 for 52)

Second Innings

N J Trainor not out	4
A J Wright not out	4
Total (no wkt)	8

BOWLING: Millns 1.1-0-5-0, Mullally 1-0-3-0

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells lbw b Smith	2
D L Maddy c Lynch b Lewis	90
T J Sutcliffe lbw b Alleyne	37
A Habib lbw b Alleyne	5
A R K Pierson c Ball b Lewis	6
*J J Whitaker b Alleyne	19
G I Macmillan c Russell b Hancock	0
†P A Nixon not out	77
D J Millns lbw b Ball	15
A D Mullally c Wright b Ball	4
J Ormond lbw b Smith	35
Extras (b 12, lb 11, nb 4)	27
Total (112.1 overs)	307

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-71, 3-95, 4-115, 5-156, 6-157, 7-170, 8-202, 9-206

BOWLING: Smith 24.1-8-62-2, Lewis 23-3-76-2, Young 20-5-56-0, Ball 17-4-36-2, Alleyne 20-11-29-3, Hancock 5-1-24-1, Trainor 3-2-1-0.

Bonus points: Leicestershire 7 Gloucestershire 5

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J D Bond

Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 221 runs behind Worcestershire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T S Curtis b Bowen	113
W P C Weston c Pollard b Bates	52
G A Hick c Bates b Evans	4
K R Spiring c Pollard b Evans	48
*T M Moody b Bowen	70
V S Solanki b Bowen	15
†S J Rhodes c Dowman b Evans	0
S R Lampitt not out	26
P J Newport lbw b Bowen	2
M Rawnsley b Archer	9
A Sheriyar c Noon b Bowen	21
Extras (b 8, lb 23, w 14, nb 12)	57
Total	417

Score at 120 overs: 353-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-87, 2-101, 3-203, 4-314, 5-333, 6-336, 7-353, 8-355, 9-380

BOWLING: Evans 38-11-89-3, Franks 30-7-77-0, Bowen 31.5-7-99-5, Archer 21-5-56-1, Bates 13-1-33-1, Dowman 11-2-32-0

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

P R Pollard lbw b Rawnsley	81
R T Robinson c Rhodes b Sheriyar	80
G F Archer c Hick b Lampitt	4
R T Bates not out	6
A A Metcalfe not out	6
Extras (b 4, lb 3, w 6, nb 6)	19
Total (3 wkts, 59 overs)	196

*P Johnson, M P Dowman, †W M Noon, K P Evans, M N Bowen and P J Franks to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-173, 2-182, 3-186

BOWLING: Newport 12-1-40-0, Sheriyar 12-1-45-1, Moody 4-1-5-0, Lampitt 18-3-59-1, Rawnsley 13-1-40-1

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 2 Worcestershire 5

Umpires: N T Plews and T E Jesty.

Surrey v Somerset

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 291 runs behind Somerset

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell b Salisbury	50
M E Trescothick c Lewis b M P Bicknell	10
*P D Bowler lbw b Tudor	83
R J Harden not out	136
P C L Holloway c Stewart b Hollioake	22
M Burns lbw b Hollioake	0
†R J Turner b Lewis	18
G D Rose c Stewart b Lewis	10
A R Caddick c Stewart b Tudor	11
S Herzberg c Butcher b Salisbury	56
K J Shine b Salisbury	1
Extras (b 10, lb 16, w 8, nb 52)	86
Total	463

Score at 120 overs: 356-8

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-105, 3-215, 4-280, 5-280, 6-315, 7-327, 8-347, 9-456

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 25-13-61-1, Lewis 28.4-9-109-2, Tudor 24-3-83-2, Benjamin 6.2-1-28-0, Salisbury 34.3-10-107-3, Hollioake 20-8-30-2; Shahid 3-0-9-0, Thorpe 3-0-8-0; D J Bicknell 1-0-2-0

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell c and b Herzberg	48
M A Butcher st Turner b Herzberg	46
†A J Stewart lbw b Rose	6
G P Thorpe lbw b Rose	8
N Shahid c Turner b Shine	29
*A J Hollioake c and b Rose	0
C C Lewis c Holloway b Caddick	3
I D K Salisbury not out	16
Extras (b 2, lb 8, w 2, nb 4)	16
Total (7 wkts, 60 overs)	172

M P Bicknell, A J Tudor and J E Benjamin to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-94, 2-109, 3-120, 4-121, 5-121, 6-143, 7-172.

BOWLING: Caddick 18-2-71-1, Shine 9-2-41-1, Rose 13-6-24-3, Herzberg 15-7-23-2, Burns 5-3-3-0

Bonus points: Surrey 3 Somerset 7

Umpires: B Dudleston and J H Harris

Sussex v Northamptonshire

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 29 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

R R Montgomerie lbw b Jarvis	68
M B Loye lbw b Jarvis	11
*R J Bailey lbw b Jarvis	12
K M Curran lbw b Robinson	5
A L Penberthy lbw b Robinson	43
†R J Warren c Greenfield b Newell	16
D J Capel b Robinson	57
J N Snape c Greenfield b Robinson	55
J E Emburey c Athey b Robinson	0
Mohammad Akram c Moores b Robinson	1
J P Taylor not out	15
Extras (b 4, lb 13, nb 15)	32
Total (113.5 overs)	315

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-55, 3-82, 4-146, 5-164, 6-219, 7-254, 8-254, 9-260

BOWLING: Drakes 28-5-88-0; Jarvis 22-5-51-3, Robinson 29.5-8-78-6, Khan 19-7-27-0, Newell 14-6-41-1, Philips 3-0-13-0

SUSSEX: First Innings

N J Lenham lbw b Taylor	0
K Greenfield c Montgomerie b Mohammad Akram	4
N R Taylor c Snape b Capel	127
C W J Athey lbw b Mohammad Akram	50
K Newell not out	91
V C Drakes c Snape b Taylor	14
*†P Moores st Warren b Emburey	5
P W Jarvis not out	19
Extras (b 2, lb 6, nb 26)	34
Total (6 wkts, 92 overs)	344

N C Philips, A A Khan and M A Robinson to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-15, 3-137, 4-263, 5-298, 6-303

BOWLING: Mohammad Akram 18-2-88-2; Taylor 17-6-47-2; Curran 9-3-22-0, Snape 16-4-55-0, Emburey 11-1-22-1; Capel 10-0-43-1; Penberthy 11-1-49-0

Bonus points: Sussex 7 Northamptonshire 5

Umpires: A Clarkson and A G T Whitehead

University matches

Cambridge University v Middlesex

FENNER'S (second day of three): Middlesex, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 278 runs ahead of Cambridge University

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 359 for 2 dec (M W Gatting 160, P E Wellings 128 not out)

Second Innings

P N Weekes c Jones b How	101
D C Nash c and b Freeth	21
J C Pooley not out	28
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 2)	4
Total (2 wkts)	154

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-154

BOWLING: How 10-2-58-1, Schaffter 7-3-18-0; Freeth 8-0-31-1, House 3-0-30-0; Jones 7-2-25-0

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings

J R Ratledge c Pooley b Johnson	12
E T Smith lbw b Tufnell	40
†D R H Churton c Brown b Hewitt	38
*A Singh c Tufnell b Weekes	30
W J House c Pooley b Weekes	43
R O Jones c Pooley b Hewitt	41
O J Hughes lbw b Johnson	3
Imran Mohammad c Tufnell b Dutch	12
J W O Freeth c Hewitt b Dutch	1
P Schaffter c Nash b Hewitt	0
E J How not out	0
Extras (b 3, lb 6, w 2, nb 4)	15
Total	235

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-61, 3-107, 4-154, 5-186, 6-200, 7-227, 8-225, 9-235

BOWLING: Fraser 11-2-37-0; Johnson 17-1-89-2, Tufnell 2-1-8-1; Hewitt 13-6-38-3, Weekes 15-5-35-2; Wellings 3-0-18-0, Dutch 4.1-2-3-2.

Umpires: H D Bird and N G Cowley

Oxford University v Yorkshire

THE PARKS (second day of three): Yorkshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 496 runs ahead of Oxford University

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 335 for 2 dec (D Byas 126 not out, A McGrath 105 not out, M D Moxon 53)

Second Innings

C White b Battarbee	6
M P Vaughan c Scrini b Patel	109
B Parker not out	138
†R J Blakey not out	10
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 2, nb 2)	12
Total (2 wkts)	276

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-237

BOWLING: Patel 22-5-63-1, Battarbee 11-0-48-1, Wright 9-0-57-0, Byrne 12-3-47-0; Wagh 8-1-17-0; Hudson 2-0-8-0; Lightfoot 5-0-27-0

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings

R D Hudson lbw b Gough	0
*M A Wagh c Blakey b Stemp	35
C G R Lightfoot c Byas b Silverwood	11
B W Byrne b Silverwood	0
J A G Fulton b Gough	6
P G Morgan c Hartley b Stemp	28
C Patel b Stemp	0
†A P Scrini lbw b Vaughan	13
L G Buchanan c Stemp b White	0
G J Wright lbw b Vaughan	0
C M Battarbee not out	10
Extras (lb 7, nb 4)	11
Total	114

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-17, 3-21, 4-44, 5-83, 6-85, 7-90, 8-92, 9-101

BOWLING: Gough 11-1-40-2, Silverwood 9-4-24-2; Hartley 7-1-21-0; Stemp 4-1-5-3, Vaughan 2.1-1-3-2, White 4-1-14-1

Umpires: A A Jones and K J Lyons

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THE TIMES ITC

In association with EQUITY & LAW

CHANGING TIMES

Turf experience a cut above others

KICKING AND SCREAMING

The Chesterfield goalkeeper, Billy Mercer, may be a popular figure with Cup watchers at the moment, yet his name is mud with the groundsman at Brentford's Griffin Park. As I learnt yesterday, at the unpromisingly-titled "Turf Experience II" at Wembley Stadium, goalkeepers have a bad habit of making a mid-point line on the pitch with their boots — or scoring, you might light-heartedly call it (so long as a proud pitch-manager wasn't in ear-shot). "It's an infringement, but they do it anyway," the groundsmen sigh, fatalistically.

Anyway, that colossus Mercer scored at Brentford and, despite all his other successes, he will not be forgiven. "What can you do about the mark?" I ask the groundsman, naively. "Fill it in?" "Well," he says, "I'd rather fill *him* in, to be honest."

A "turf experience" is not something I've ever had before. Asked in what profession "spiking", "cutting up" and "bobbling" might be specialist vocabulary, I'd have guessed with confidence hairdressing or peddling drugs. But more than 100 blokes turned up at Wembley yesterday morning to hear talks on such vital subjects as "*Rootzone Water* Management for Uniform Turf Surfaces", and every single one of them knew more about grass than I'll ever know about anything.

Truss makes the most of a close encounter with Wembley's hallowed turf and finds it in excellent shape

"Do you cut the grass at home, or do you hate it?" I ask Rob McCullagh, the man with the top job at Wembley Stadium. With obvious pleasure, he rubs his hands. "Neither," he says. "I live in a flat."

These are the men who watch vital matches but never raise their gaze from the level of the grass. They yell "Get him off" seemingly out of context. These are men (oh yes) who can tell a divot from a hole in the ground. To them the "rootzone" does not mean the position in which Brighton and Hove Albion now find themselves. When the speaker from the Sports Turf Research Institute paints a futuristic picture of multipurpose sports stadiums, with pitches *grown in the car park and rolled up and brought inside only as required*, I am as round-eyed as anybody.

They already have a portable pitch developed on this principle at Arnhem, apparently — but in my opinion it's a disaster waiting to happen. One day they will roll it up, then count all the players, and discover that several of them are missing, like that old joke about the budgie and the carpet.

We tend to forget how unnatural it is to grow a field in the middle of a football stadium. But it's extremely weird, really, which is why the sight of misplaced grass is probably the most vivid aspect of one's first trips to live football. A friend who loathed *Fever Pitch* (the movie, not the book) nevertheless applauded the scene when young Paul emerges from tunnel and steps, and sees the grass for the first time. What's *that* doing in here? In the midst of all the mundane concrete, it is like finding a waterfall in a multi-storey car park.

It's very green; it's very flat; it's very large; and, if you're lucky, it's got patterns on it. At Wembley — where the turf has of course the extra distinction of being hallowed (hello, turf!) — it's generally mown in a criss-cross pattern, although McCullagh, the nice, flat-dwelling groundsman, has a hankering after diamonds as well.

There appear to be no bad boys of pitch management. I was hoping for tales of cowboys who spray green paint and hope for the best, or patch up goalmouths with offcuts from Allied Carpets. But it doesn't happen. "What happened to Astroturf?" is a question that simply betrays my age and falls flat, like reminding people of their Zappata moustaches. On artificial grass, I suspect, a sliding tackle might result in spectacular friction-ignition — a picture once imagined, never forgotten. "Brave horizontal tackle from Batty," Motson says on the telly. "But ooh look, it's happened again! His *bum's* on fire!"

Matrix flow is good; fingered flow is bad. It's amazing what you can pick up about effective watering techniques in a mere half-day, although one cannot forget that the Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute has reached volume 72, so presumably there's a lot more to it than that. Meanwhile, it is worth knowing that, while a "Creeping Bent" may sound like one of Sherlock Holmes's less successful disguises, it is in fact a species of grass. On the Wembley pitch, there's a combination of rye grasses which look in excellent nick to me. But, then, I always applaud well-cut grass, having grown up in a household in which my father *not* cutting the grass was a domestic non-cooperation issue of disproportionate significance.

> 'It's nice to think of these guys having fun'

"Do you ever water the grass just to watch the players fall over?" I ask the Brentford man. Tiredness is setting in, perhaps: I'm clutching at — well, grass. But it's nice to think of these guys having a bit of fun sometimes. Why else would the chap at Sunderland have mown the pitch at Roker Park in concentric circles for the Middlesbrough match? Either he wanted the visitors to suffer vertigo, or it was pure *joie de vivre* for the sake of the cameras, a little like writing "Hello Mum" with his lawnmower.

"So this profession — would you call it a level playing field?" I kept wanting to ask, but somehow could never get up the nerve. But I know one thing: I'll always take the wormcast's-eye-view of the football pitch in future. And, when a goalkeeper is beaten by a random bounce *caused by his own infringement*, I shall make like an aggrieved groundsman and say "Serves you right."

LYNNE TRUSS

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

DUBBS

(a) A process developed in the 1920s from the early "ThermalCrackers". In it crude oil is heated in tubes lining a furnace, and "cracks" to produce what today would be classed as *low-grade motor spirit. Today some use is made of equipment* with milder conditions to reduce viscosity of fuel oils, thus saving the use of Diesel oil as a diluent. Also with severe conditions to produce coke for the manufacture of electrodes.

CUNIBERTI

(c) Vittorio Cuniberti (1854-1913) was one of a school of Italian naval architects who had a profound effect on all warship design, even including the British Dreadnought. He argued that: "Fast ships are an absolute necessity: slow ships, however powerful, have everything to lose." The first pure Cuniberti ship, *Vittorio Emanuele*, laid down in 1901, first of a class of four, had two 12-inch guns plus 12 8-inch, all on a displacement of under 13,000 tons. Her speed of 21 knots was 4 knots faster than any foreign ship.

LOOSE LINER

(c) The inner tube of a barrel, carrying the rifling on its inside face. It may be removed and replaced without the need to dismantle the barrel. The term may also apply to the fitting of a tube to a gun of greater calibre, the 3.7 inch Mark 6 AA gun being an example.

WANKEL

(c) An engine invented and developed by Frederick Wankel (1902-1988). A rotary internal combustion engine. Essentially a triangular body on an eccentrically pivoted shaft, with three corners touching the walls of the surround, thus forming three combustion chambers varying in volume as it turns. Despite its simplicity of design/construction and freedom from variation, the Wankel engine has remained more of a curiosity than a practical piece of equipment in wide use.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Qa7! Wins a further piece, as if 2 Rxa7 Rd1+ mating.

BOXING

Hamed's taunts go unheard

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

EVERYBODY knows that Billy Hardy has no chance against Naseem Hamed when they meet for the World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation world featherweight championships in Manchester a week tomorrow. Nobody, though, except for Hamed, the defending champion, has told Hardy that. After all, you have to respect a veteran of 32 for returning to the ring after his dramatic defeat by Orlando Canizales six years ago and lifting the British, Commonwealth and European titles.

So, it was no surprise to see a confident Hardy tying the last knots to the package that he has been preparing for Hamed in the Burton Street School gym in Sheffield, just four miles away from Wincobank, where Hamed wrapped up his routine.

Gordon Ibinson, Hardy's trainer, who has been with him since he was six, said: "He is ready to go. We have been training for eight weeks and he is confident he will be the winner on the night."

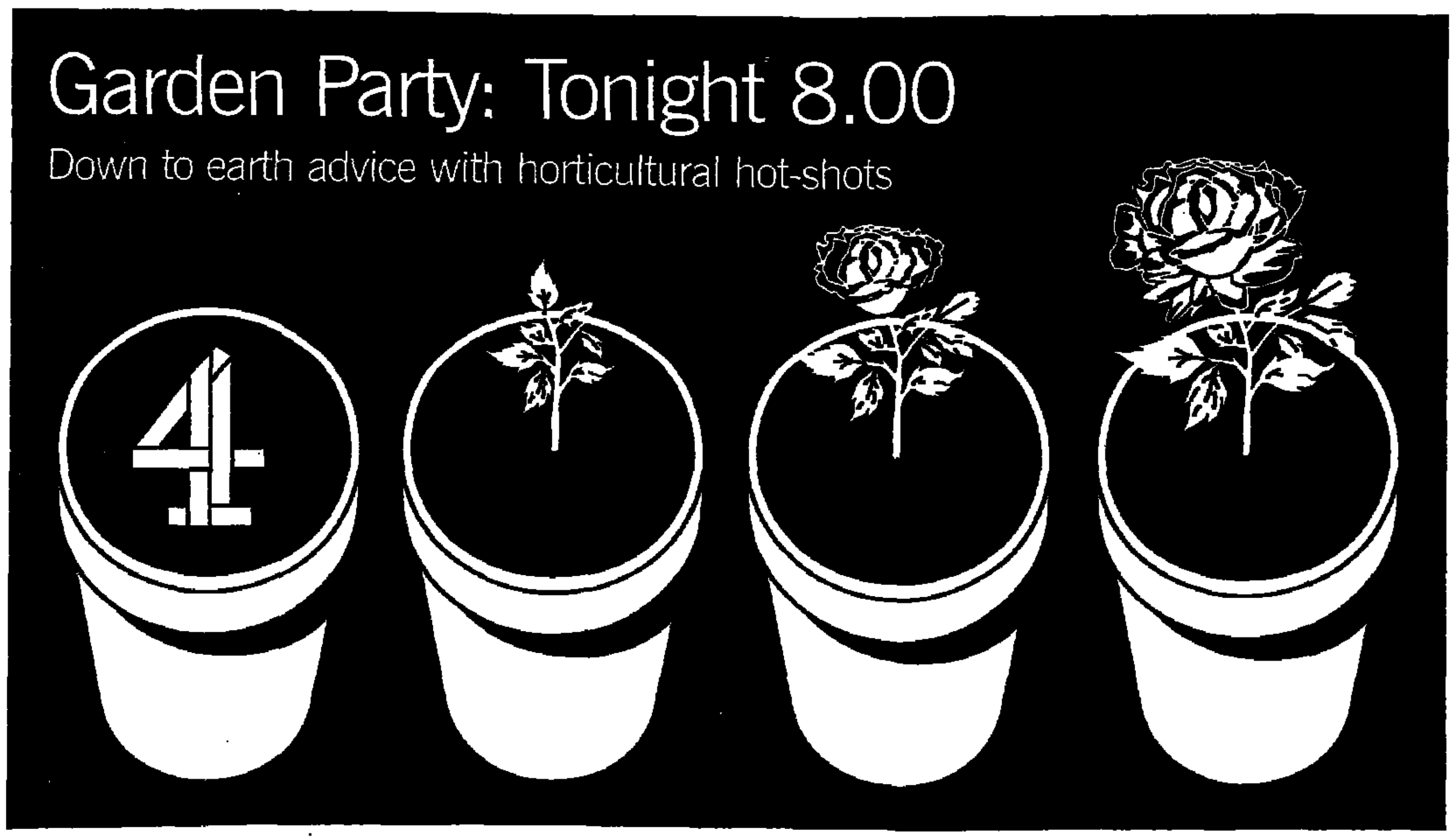
For the past eight weeks Ibinson and Hardy have been rehearsing secret moves that they have devised after studying Hamed on video tape. "We have been sparring with a Naz clone," Ibinson said; but he refused to reveal who that man might be.

Hamed: impromptu visit

It is just as well that nothing secret was in progress yesterday, for Hamed made an impromptu visit to the gym. "I ain't spying on you," Hamed said, "but show me what you've got. I am not impressed. You will have to hit harder than that."

Hardy's training quickly petered out, but he said that he was about to finish anyway. If Hamed's visit was a stunt to upset Hardy, it failed.

Back at Wincobank, Hamed was, as usual, keener to hand out an earbashing than bagbashing. "From what I saw, I've got *nothing to worry* about," he said. "He has nothing to beat me with. It will be the first or the second [round] — depends on how I *feel on the night*."



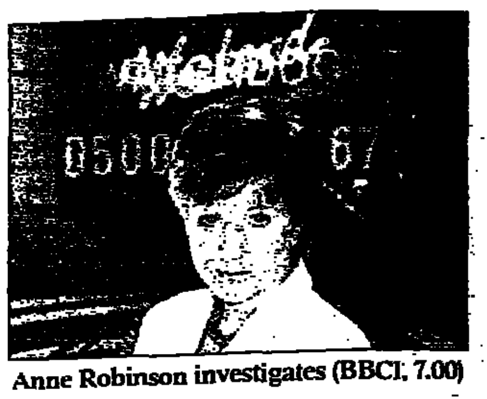
Garden Party: Tonight 8.00
Down to earth advice with horticultural hot-shots
4

TELEVISION CHOICE

Testing the leisure market

Weekend Watchdog
BBC1, 7.00pm

The latest of several offspring of the consumer show is a Friday edition devoted, appropriately, to the leisure field. Some of the areas, such as package holidays, have been well covered on the parent programme. But the agenda also includes complaints against high street shops, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, garden centres, amusement parks and sports venues. *All of which should* provide plenty of material for the tested and Kitemarked team of Anne Robinson and the man whose first name looks like a misprint, Johnathan Maitland. There is more emphasis than before on *live phone lines and the* forthright Robinson will be challenging errant companies to mend their ways within a 30-minute deadline. *Weekend Watchdog* is also making what could be a rash promise, to use its own plane to fly home holidaymakers who are having a rotten time.



Anne Robinson investigates (BBC1, 7.00)

A Golfer's Travels With Peter Alliss
BBC2, 8.00pm

Alliss's amiable golfing chat show comes from Spain, host this year of the Ryder Cup and synonymous with Seve Ballesteros. Sadly there is no Ballesteros in the film. Instead Alliss talks to Jaime Ortiz-Patino, owner of the Valderrama course where the Ryder Cup will be played, and plays a couple of holes on the "Augusta of Europe". *From there it is off to Rio Tinto*, a gravel course (you bring your own matting) which is not the Augusta of anywhere but is of interest as the first place where golf was played in Spain. It was imported by Scottish miners. Non-golfers who have read so far and feel the programme is not for them may be pleased to know that Alliss's other guest is Steven Redgrave. This is the cue for yet another inquest on Britain's awful showing (Redgrave and partner excepted) in the Olympics.

Garden Party
Channel 4, 8.00pm

When *Garden Party* was first aired last year it tended only to make existing gardening programmes look all the more slick and *professional. The idea of assembling* a trio of experts to visit gardens and dispense advice, seemed sound enough, not least because for half a century it has been the basis of *Gardeners' Question Time* on radio. But despite having the advantage that it could show what it was talking about, the programme flowed far less well than Radio 4's perennial. While the new series is not available for previewing, it is a fair bet that lessons have been learnt. Check for yourself as Tom Barber, *once again in the anchor role*, takes fellow horticulturalists David Jones and Carol Klein to the spring gardens of Docton Mill in Devon.

Gardeners' World
BBC2, 8.30pm

Meanwhile, over at the BBC's gardening show, Bob Flowerdew is in trouble. It all stems from his infamous item last year about growing potatoes in towers of old car tyres. Viewers seem either to have dismissed the idea with scorn or to have tried it and found it wanting. Flowerdew does his best to look unabashed. He suggests where unsuccessful growers may have gone wrong and demonstrates his continued faith in the theory by planting even more varieties in even more towers. You cannot *imagine Helen Yemm using old car tyres. Yemm* was the slightly schoolmarmish host of *Gardening From Scratch*. Having told other gardeners what to do, she now shows us her garden. Meanwhile, *Alan Titchmarsh dispenses* cheery wisdom on growing fruit in a small space and keeping cats off flowerbeds. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

The Front
Radio 4, 8.50pm

A man walking down the high street at Lewes in Sussex is dressed as a zebra. He attracts little attention and is certainly not regarded as odd. The *reason is that it is November 5, when Lewes has a* carnival. On any other day of the year, the man would attract curious glances and cause discomfort among other pedestrians. The essence of this new series is the relationship between people and pretence: how we tend to assume certain protective positions for certain situations, at school, at work and at home. Pretence runs deep, it goes back to the apes and is to be seen in the behaviour of wounded animals, which will take elaborate measures to give the impression they are not *wounded. Sara Parker explores the phenomenon.*

From the Canyons to the Stars
Radio 3, 7.30pm

Olivier Messiaen is regarded as the most significant French composer of the post-war era and *Des Canyons aux Etoiles (From the Canyons to the Stars)* is his most towering and wide-ranging composition, played tonight by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as part of Radio 3's *Sounding the Century* season. Messiaen was inspired to write the piece during a visit to Utah in the 1970s. It is in 14 short movements split into three sections, and it makes formidable use of woodwind, brass and percussion to paint a musical picture of praise and contemplation. The principal soloists tonight are Rolf Hind (piano), David Flack (horn) and Heather Corbett and *David Lyons (percussion).* ***Peter Barnard***

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Pete Tong — Essential Selection **10.00** London Music Week: One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood **3.00am** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **8.05** Wake Up to Wogan **10.00** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night from the North Wales Theatre, Llandudno. With *the BBC Concert Orchestra under Roderick Dunk (r)* **9.15** Last Orders (3/8) **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** Sheridan Morley **12.05am** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am *Morning Reports* **6.00** The *Breakfast Programme* **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mar **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.20** Friday Sport with John Murray. Football Bolton Wanderers v Charlton Athletic, Norwich City v Manchester City and Birmingham City v Oxford United **10.00** Brian Hayes's Election Night **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** *Up All Night*

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime with Peter Neeley **7.00** Moz Dee's *Sportszone* **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST**. News on the hour. **6.00am** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** The World Today **7.30** Meridian Books **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Music Review **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Performance **9.30** John Peel **10.05** Business **10.15** Neighbours **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** Assignment **12.30pm** Focus on Faith **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** What's That You're Eating **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack: Alternative **4.05** Football Extra **4.15** The Streets of London **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** The World Today **6.30** News in German **6.40** Music Brief **6.45** Sport **7.30** Focus on Faith **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Multitrack: Alternative **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** *People and Politics* **10.45** *Sport* **11.30** *The World Today* **11.45** Sport **12.05** Outlook **12.30am** Multitrack: Alternative **1.30** From the Weeklies **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** The Streets of London **3.30** People and Politics **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Weekend **4.45** Off the Shelf **5.00** Outlook **5.45** Music Brief

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **7.00** Mike Read **9.00** Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Election '97 **1.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata **8.00** Concert Weber (Overture to Oberon); Schubert (Notturno for Piano, Violin and Cello in E flat) **10.00** *Michael Mappin* **2.00am** Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / *Robin* Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, *with Andrew MacGregor. Includes* Mozart (Symphony No 36 in C); Bax (Oboe Quintet); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue); Berlioz (Overture, Beatrice and Benedict); Bernstein (Prelude, Fugue and Riffs) **8.18** Building a Library: Bach (Brandenburg Concerto; Sibelius (En Saga)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Stravinsky (Eight Intrumental Miatures); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 in E Flat); Grainger (English Dance); Dvořák (The Hero's Song)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines. Includes Brahms (Eight Piano Pieces); Haydn (Symphony No 65 in A); Lalo (Cello Sonata); Ravenscroft (There Were Three Ravens); Saint-Saëns (Cello Sonata No 2 in F); John Ward (My Breast I'll Set)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Rachmaninov

1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert. Chris De Souza introduces a concert by Hiro Kurosaki, violin, and Linda Nicholson, piano, given at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Schubert (Violin Sonata in D minor); Mozart (Violin Sonata in E minor); Balbastre (Marseillaise); Mozart (Violin Sonata in D)

2.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to the *former Cabinet Secretary Lord Armstrong of* Ilminster, whose *musical* selections include Byrd, Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Strauss, Warlock and Vaughan Williams (r)

3.00 Mining the Archive. Sandy Burnett presents a tribute to the Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly. Includes BBC *archive recordings of the composer* conducting his own music, a piano recital by Tamas Vasary, and interviews with Sir Michael Tippett and Kodaly himself

5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson

5.15 In Tune, *with Andrew Green Includes Schubert,* transcr Liszt (Das Wandern); Chabrier (Espana), *Rachmaninov* (Vocalise)

7.30 From the Canyons to the Stars. See Choice. Live from the Tramway Theatre in Glasgow Olivier Messiaen (Des canyons aux etoiles. Conductor Martyn Brabbins

9.15 Sicilian Voices. In the last of five programmes exploring the life, history and literature of Sicily, Joe Farrell looks at Sicilian writers such as Leonardo Sciascia

9.35 Homage to a Parrot. Sandro Ivo Bartoli, piano, plays Malipiero's three comic homages to a parrot, an elephant and an idiot. Plus a selection from Malipiero's Italian contemporaries Includes Respighi (Prelude in B flat)

10.00 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker talks to clarinettist Andrew Sparling who featres in both of tonight's ensembles. Topologies Ensemble. James Clarke (Trio); Laurence Crane (Trio); Roger Redgate (+R); Michael Finnisy (WAM), Chris Dench (mem(e)); James Erber (You Done Torn Your Playhouse Down); Jame Clarke (Entfernung); Richard Barret (What Remains). Tapestry Ensemble. Howard Skempton (Colomen)

11.30 Composers of the Week: Forgotten Giants of 18th-Century Opera *(r)*

12.30am Everything but the Crazyhouse. Russell *Davies* continues the six part series exploring the life and work of the legendary saxophonist Sidney Bechet (3/6) (r)

1.00 Through the Night, *with Donald Macleod.* Includes **1.00** Haydn's *Il Ritorno di Tobia*. With Zsolt Bende, baritone, Klara Takacs, contralto, Budapest Madrigal Choir, Hungarian Stae Orchestra, under Ferenc Szerkeres

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Though for the Day

9.00 News 9.05 Election Call. Peter Sissons puts listeners' questions to Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke. Call 0345-514614

10.00 News; Growing Up Global (FM). Julia MacKenzie meets alumni of the Pestalozzi International Children's Village, where refugee children from around the world were brought up in an idyllic setting

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour, with Main Nicholson

11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Kevin Boot

12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and *current affairs with Mark Whittaker*

12.25pm Food Programme. Presented by Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 Classic Serial: Rogue Herries, by Hugh Walpole. Dramatised by Eric Pringle. A family move to a tumbledown ancestral home surrounded by the Cumberland fells. With Gavin Muir, Mark Bonnar and Janet Maw (1/4) (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and the guests of the day

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. *Tim* Marlow reads a new thriller by Anthony Frewin, *London Blues*, set in 1950s Soho. The novel includes a history of blue movies

4.45 Short Story: Queen of May. Written and read by David Benedictus. The touching story of an ageing race horse and her owner who believes she can win one more race

5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Growing Spaces. The gardening magazine. Edi Stark meets South African gardeners and Professor David Stevens visits an English sculpture garden

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serle presents his selection of extracts *from BBC radio and television*

8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Roade, Northamptonshire. With Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke; shadow Secretary of State for Social Security, Harriet Harmon; Liberal Democrat peer Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, and leader *of the* Scottish National Party, Alex Salmond

8.50 The Front. See Choice (1/4)

9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. The American crime novellist Walter Mosley talks about his fictional detective Easy Rawlins *(r)* **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: One of Ours. The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Willa Cather. Read by Ian Porter (5/12)

11.00 Week Ending. The topical comedy sketch show with Sally Grace *and the team*

11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick Hannan and guests

11.45 The New Recruit. Ray Bragg tells newcomer Jackie Collins about his 50 years in the pawnbroking business (2/4) (r)

12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: High Fidelity, by Nick Hornby *Read by Alan Davies* (5/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). ***CLASSIC FM.*** *FM 100-102.* **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Dishing the dirt on a harmless obsession

Taghi Amirani is a film-maker with a very odd line in questioning. "How long *have you been in love?*" he asked *brightly*, a few minutes into last *night's* **Mad about Machines** (Channel 4). It was a *curious* question to ask *for three reasons*. The first being that *he hadn't* known David and Barbara long; the second, that Barbara had just dropped a major clue by explaining that she met David at Bolton's Palais de Dance 26 years ago. And the third? The programme was supposed to be about vacuum cleaners.

Still, the Cassons had not got to run Accrington's premier vacuum repair business without knowing a thing or two. "Well, we've been married for 26 years," replied Barbara, fixing Amirani with a *look that would make an extension lead recoil* at five paces. David, however, hoping perhaps that what chimneys did for Fred Dibnah, vacuum cleaners would do for him, played along: "For two weeks . . . 26 years ago."

This time it was his turn to be on the receiving end of that look — it works for husbands, too. He was back *in that messy repair shop in two shakes of the Shake 'N' Vac*.

For those who have stuck with *this gently enjoyable series*, Amirani's *method of film-making has* long been apparent. He is *far more* interested in the people than he is in the machines.

It's a laudable failing, *but at* times he seems to be trying far too hard to turn his subjects into eccentrics. His questioning goes way beyond the normal line of promptings from behind the camera.

If he is going to so control the content of his film by asking extraordinary questions such as "What will happen to Vac Services after you have gone?", he needs to be in front of the camera alongside his subject. *That way we can get the* measure of both of them.

And what is it about death, anyway? He's obsessed with it. You might think the discovery that after the passing of Vac Services, "people will have to buy new" would be enough for any film-maker. But not for Amirani. "Does that make you sad?" No.

Cut? Move on? Not a bit of it: "Is there no way you can make Vac Services *live on after you*?" David *paused, sighed and thought* of Dibnah: "No," he said solemnly. "I'd *like it to die with me.*" At last, *our man was happy*.

With that we were off to Newlyn, heart of the Cornish fishing industry. Must be another party political broadcast, I thought — you can't move for politicians and battle buses in Newlyn at the moment.

"Hello, I'm Sophie Grigson," said a woman who looked on the

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

cusp between the *Greens* and the *Lib Dems*. "*Aven't made up my mind yet, sling yer 'ook,*" *said a burly fisherman*. Actually, that last bit's *not true*. "*Come and have a look at my salt cod,*" he said. As Grigson had just gushingly told us that "salt cod is no longer a necessity, it's a luxury," she did as she was bid. Part two of **Taste of the Times** (Channel 4) was underway.

What followed was the fascinating story of surely one of the most *pointless ingredients known to modern, refrigerator-friendly man. First take your cod* (did you know the best cod is gutted alive? — quite put me off tonight's fish supper) then cover it in salt, which draws the water out of it and preserves it. Then hang it on a hook while you hibernate for the winter.

When you awake and fancy a bit of fish, soak the salt cod in fresh water, which washes away the salt and puts back the water. Result, something that looked remarkably like readily available fresh cod. *Grigson, however, was at pains to stress that the whole thing was not a monumental waste of time: "It's not like fresh cod at all."*

The difference, *she thought*, was akin to that between plums and prunes, a comparison which, for somebody who's never seen the point of dried fruit either, was not entirely helpful. She fairly gallops through the recipes, too. If you were to slow down a bit, Sophie, I *might vote for you*.

A week or so ago, *The Times* carried a striking picture of the soon-to-be renamed *Sea Empress* nearing the end of a £22 million refit in Belfast. The picture served as a powerful reminder that what had been a disaster for the Pembrokeshire coast had actually been very good news for the ship-repairers of Harland and Wolff. Last night's **Horizon** (BBC2) muddied the picture further still by arguing — as its title *A Perfect Oil Spill* suggested — that the grounding of the *Sea Empress* barely counted as a disaster at all.

Lessons had been learnt from all the *major oil disasters*, we were told. From the *Torrey Canyon* we learnt that you cannot burn off crude oil by bombing with napalm. Nor is scraping off the top layer of a beach, as the French did after the *Amoco Cadiz*, a good idea (it gets rid of the oil all right, but it destroys the eco-system of the beach). Nor is using equally damaging pressure hoses, as they did in Alaska after the *Exxon Valdez*. Those gallant Pembrokeshire men *with their little shovels and scrapers* were doing exactly the right thing, following the latest, softly-softly approach that aims to work with nature rather than against her.

Softly-softly, however, does not mean low-tech nor a happy ending for everybody. Thousands of gallons of dispersants were used, hydrocarbon-munching bacteria were helped along by chemical fertilisers.

And then, following a mass, and very messy, post mortem, a growing *consensus* emerged: that the *best thing to do with oiled seabirds was not to clean them but put them out of their misery. Didn't sound perfect to me.*

6.00am Business Breakfast (10421)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (70379564)
9.05 Election Call The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, answers viewers' questions (T) (9078835)
10.00 Style Challenge (70019)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (51309)
11.00 News (T) regional news and weather (4265699)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (9791090)
11.35 Snooker: World Championship Dougie Donnelly introduces early coverage from day seven, the second round matches, at *Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (3960274)*
12.35pm Good Living (9315767)
1.00 News (T) and weather (19496)
1.30 Regional News (T) (50945651)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (73184867)
2.10 Snooker: World Championship Live coverage as round two continues. Coverage continues on BBC2 (4110699)
3.30 Mouse and Mole (9325458) **3.35** Noddy (r) (6786038) **3.45** Bodger and Badger (r) (6766274) **4.00** Ace Ventura, Pet Detective (T) (6359583) **4.25** Clarissa *Explains It All (r) (T) (8708922)* **4.50** Newsround Election Special (T) (1224748) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (8780877)
5.35 Neighbours *(r) (T) (151125)*
6.00 News *(T) and weather (632)*
6.30 Regional News (T) (959800)
6.55 PEB by the BNP (795571)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog A look at Britain's leisure industry (T) (1816)
7.30 Top of the Pops Rundown of the latest hits, including new videos, pre-chart sounds and live performances (T) (496)
8.00 Porridge Fletch gives his new cell-mate a less than welcoming reception. With *Ronnie Barker, Maurice Denham and Richard Beckinsale (r) (T) (9944)*
8.30 ***A Question of Sport*** *David Coleman puts the questions to team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott and their* guests England cricket captain Mike Atherton, Three-Day-Eventer Karen Dixon, Leicester fly-half Joel Stansky and snooker's European Open champion John Higgins (T) (9699)
9.00 News (T) and weather (370922)
9.50 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (791729)
10.00 Terminator II: Judgment Day (1991) with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton and Edward Furlong. The cyborg returns this time setting out to protect the future saviour of the human *race from a rival terminator with incredible powers. This version features scenes* from the director's cut, previously unreleased in Britain. Directed by James Cameron (T) (50222336)
12.20 Young Billy Young (1969) with Robert Mitchum, Angie Dickinson, Robert Walker, Jr and David Carradine. A young and impressionable gun man is helped *through a series of worst-case-scenarios by a mysterious stranger intent on avenging the brutal murder of his son.* Directed by Burt Kennedy (5937510)
1.45am-1.50 Weather (5827539)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your *video recorder* instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) *and Video Programmer* are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am O.U.: Health Visiting and the Family (2962477) **6.25** Women, Children and Work (6424212)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (8759090)
7.30 Teenage Turtles (4840545) **7.55** 50/50 (r) (5342019) **8.20** Garden Fairies *(3861564)* **8.25** Tooth Fairies (7833941) **8.35** The Raccoons (9560477)
9.00 The French Experience (8666941) **9.15** *The French Collection (538813)* **9.45** *Watch* (2843496) **10.00** Teletubbies (61361) **10.30** Watch Out (2052903) **10.45** Pathways of Belief (2057458) **11.00** Look and Read (4232729) **11.20** Belief File (7637564) **11.40** Mathsphere (6758361) **12.00** English File (33903)
12.30pm Working Lunch (77835)
1.00 Job Bank (58948354) **1.10** Job Bank (22182293) **1.20** Developing World (64785361) **1.45** Words and Pictures (50948748) **2.00** Garden Fairies (r) (37873106) **2.05** Tooth Fairies (37872477) **2.10** Alias Smith and Jones *(r) (7277816)* **3.00** News *(T)* **3.05** The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (r) (1230651)
3.30 Snooker: World Championship *Continuing the coverage from BBC1 (482106)*
5.15 Racing from Ascot *The* **5.30; 6.00** *and* **6.30** races (455477)
6.45 Snooker *Coverage of the conclusion of* one of today's best-of-25-frames second-round matches (1584309)

Peter Alliss visits Spain (8.00pm)

8.00 A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss Peter heads to southern Spain (T) (8106)
8.30 Gardeners' World Cultivating fruit in a small garden and keeping cats off flowerbeds (T) (4011)
9.00 Have I Got News for You Current affairs comedy quiz, hosted by Angus Deayton with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. The guests are Hugh Dennis and Will Self (6583)
9.30 Sunnyside Farm Ray's conscience *suffers a pounding when Letchworth offers him cash to help keep woodland protestors off his land.* Rural sitcom, with Phil Daniels, Mark Addy, Beth Goddard and Matt Lucas (T) (97699)
10.00 Rab C Nesbitt (r) (T) (34632)
10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative Party (T) (154922)
10.35 Newsnight (957816)
11.30 Election Broadcast: BNP (268019)
11.35 Snooker(614019)
12.15am This Life (r) *(T) (1193713)*
1.05 Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1931, b/w) *Fredric March gives an Oscar-winning* performance as the Victorian doctor who meddles with science and turns into a vicious monster compelled to kill and destroy. Also with Miriam Hopkins Rouben Mamoulian directs (1090688)
2.35 Weather (8458684)

6.00am GMTV (6256212)
9.25 Chain Letters (3195835)
9.55 Regional news (2217922)
10.00 The Time, the Place *(65187)*
10.30 This Morning (61677583)
12.20 Regional News (4921651)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9301564)
12.55 Our House (9319583)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (64788458) **1.50** Murder, She Worte (2946293) **2.50** Garden Calendar (5584854)
3.20 News (T) (3847509) **3.25** Regional news and weather (7235125)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (6772835) **3.40** Cartoon Time (6792699) ***3.55*** *Zzzap! (6627380)* **4.15** Where's *Wally? (8704106)* **4.40** *Crazy Cottage (8857106)*
5.10 A Country Practice *(1168835)*
5.40 News *(T) and weather (310941)*
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (951800)
6.25 HTV Weather (921449)
6.30 The West Tonight (276516)
6.55 Election Broadcast: Conservative Party (T) (228859)
7.00 Lucky Numbers (T) (9212)
7.30 Coronation Street Jack sets a cunning trap to catch out Terry (T) (564)
8.00 The Bill An inmate confesses to assaulting a prison officer (T) (5632)
8.30 Reduce Speed Now presented by Eamonn Holmes (4767)

Michael Siberry, Julia St John (9.00)

9.00 The Grand Two smooth-talking strangers contact Mr Collins, claiming they're campaigning to clear the names of British soldiers executed for desertion. *He immediately offers his entire life savings to support their cause, desperate to find out more about his own son's* death (T) (6421)
10.00 News (T) Michael Brunson interviews Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Paddy Ashdown. Followed by weather (38458)
10.29 Regional weather (296019)
10.30 The West Tonight Update (873545)
10.40 Hotel *The new executive chef of the* Swallow Royal Hotel, faces his biggest challenge so far — preparing a menu for the Palm Court Restaurant (776038)
11.15 At The Albert Steve Tilston, Maggie Boyle and Tom McConville in concert (235380)
12.15am The Wacky Weekly World News (3943201)
12.40 Bonkers New comedy show (7459591)
1.40 Club Nation (8621171)
2.45 Movie Club (67572)
3.15 Lena's Holiday (1990) Comic caper thriller with Felicity Waterman, Chris Lemmon and *Nick Mancuso* Directed by *Michael Keusch (710978)*
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (15152)
5.30 News (75959)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice *(9319583)*
2.50-3.20 Our House *(5584854)*
5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** (1168835)
6.25-6.55 **Central News** (153019)
10.40 Central Weekend Live: Election Special (30713106)
12.15am Weekly World News (88065)
12.45 Bonkers (486510)
1.45 Baywatch (6942152)
2.40 Cyber Cafe (8091591)
3.15 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (54144881)
3.30 Dating the Enemy (2239171)
4.25 Central Jobfinder '97 (4698862)
5.20 Asian Eye (2941775)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (9319583)
1.25 Wish You Were Here? (70384477)
1.55 Blue Heelers (2954212)
2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (5584854)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away *(1168835)*
6.00-6.55 Westcountry Live *(615545)*
10.30 Westcountry News (897125)
10.45 Film: Disorganised Crime (16196835)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9319583)
1.50 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks *(93589908)*
5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** (1168835)
6.00-6.55 **Meridian Tonight** (615545)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (897125)
10.45 Highlander (973854)
11.40 A406 (201564)
12.10am Campus Cops (4810602)
5.00 Freescreen (15152)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9319583)
2.50-3.20 Liza's Country (5584854)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1168835)
6.25 Anglia News (252854)
10.30 Anglia News ***and Weather*** (897125)
10.45 Film: Amityville Horror ***— The Evil Escapes*** *(16196835)*

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (97361) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (23449) ***9.00 Bewitched*** (48835) ***9.30 Film: The Ghost of St Michael's*** (55106) **11.00 Film: Jumping for Joy** (81767) **12.30pm Ricki Lake** (62903) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (42643962) **1.15 Slot Syniadau Sali** (47693467) **1.30 Australia Wild** (61274) **2.00 Racing from Sandown Park** (7564) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (293) **4.30 Mad About *Machines*** (477) ***5.00*** **5 Pump** (7090) **5.30 *Countdown*** (729) ***6.00*** **Newyddion** (785767) **6.05 Heno** (156106) **6.35 Bob Yn Ddau** (426039) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (259187) **7.25 Cymru Gudd** (524274) **8.00 Olion Ddoe** (3274) **8.30 Darllediad Etholiadol: Ceidwadwyr** (897816) **8.35 Newyddion** (173895) **9.05 Etholiad 97** (362903) **9.50 *Etholiad 97*** (707380) **10.05 Brookside** *(222274)* ***10.35*** **Phil Kay Feels . . .** *(777767)* **11.10 Party Election *Broadcast*** (Conservatives) (220699) **11.15 TFI Friday** (233922) **12.15am Party Election Broadcast** (3861607) **12.20 Snwcer: Pencampwriaeth Y Byd** (7260323) **12.50 Film: Rainbow** (918620) **2.50-4.55 Film: The Goodbye Girl** (40347423)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street *(r) (97361)* **7.00** The Big Breakfast (23449) **9.00** Bewitched *(r)* (T) (48835)
9.30 The Ghost of St Michael's (1942, b/w) with Will Hay. A comedy about a teacher who unearths a Nazi spy ring in the Scottish castle where his school has been evacuated. *Directed by Marcel Varnel (55106)*
11.00 Survivors of the Rainforest The Yanomami Indians of Venezuela (r) (T) (91090) **12.00** *The Lost Gardens of* Heligan *(r) (T)* (68699)
12.30pm Light Lunch (72019) **1.30** Australia Wild (r) (T) (61274)
2.00 Racing from Sandown Park *Live coverage of the* **2.05, 2.35, 3.10** *and* **3.40** races (7564)
4.00 **Fifteen-to-One** (T) (293) **4.30** Countdown (T) *(477)* **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (7090) **5.30** Pet Rescue *(T) (729)*
6.00 TFI *Friday* *The guests include Jimmy* Tarbuck (70922)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (T) (923496)
7.50 Power and the People Sheena *MacDonald previews this weekend's poll* in Manchester (T) (958106)

Tom Barber advises (8.00pm)

8.00 ***Garden Party*** Tom Barber and the team return with *more* advice and encouragement (T) (3274)
8.30 Brookside Mick helps Gladys *to make an important decision (T) (2309)*
9.00 Caroline In the City *Caroline helps* Richard sort out unresolved issues with his jet-setting mother (T) (1651)
9.30 Spin City *Mike goes all out to impress the new female Chief of Staff (T) (82767)*
10.00 **Frasier** *Frasier becomes the target of a hate campaign run by a local newspaper* columnist (r) (T) (56800)
10.30 **Phil Kay Feels . . . Technical** A comic look at technology (T) (778496)
11.05 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) (600039)
11.10 TFI *Friday* *(r)* (924748)
12.10am Election Broadcast (T) (3862336)
12.15 Brighton Rock (1947, b/w) with Richard Attenborough. *A drama based on Graham Greene's novel about a Brighton gangleader who murders an informant.* Directed by Roy Boulting (T) (231084)
2.00 Dead End (1937, b/w) with Humphrey Bogart. A gangster's influence begins to affect the children in his hometown. Directed by William Wyler (856959)
3.40 The Crimes of Stephen Hawke (1936, b/w). *A melodrama with Tod Slaughter as a murderous moneylender.* Directed by George King (2129775)
4.55-5.55 Paradise Canyon (1935, b/w). A western with John Wayne. A government agent tracks down a gang of counterfeiters. Directed by Carl Pierson (2113510)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News Early *(7488632)*
7.30 *Havakazoo* *(2508090)*
8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol *(2133019)*
8.30 Wideworld Series exploring *the links between Italian art, architecture and* religion The final *programmes* focuses on the Bapistry in Padua (2125090)
9.00 Espresso (5125941)
10.00 *Exclusive* *(r)* (6433090)
10.30 Nancy Lam *(r)* (T) (2145854)
11.00 Leeza Chat show *(9372038)*
11.50 Double Espresso *(45939583)*
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) *(2136106)*
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9010922)
1.00 5 News Update (92040458)
1.05 Sunset Beach (6135632)
2.00 5's Company (2128877)
3.30 Irreconcilable Differences (1984) with Ryan O'Neal, Shelley Long and Drew Barrymore. A comedy *about a ten-year-old who sues her parents for "divorce". Directed by Charles Shyer (6617125)*
5.25 Election Broadcast: **BNP** (14985458)
5.30 **100 Per Cent** (1082125)
6.00 Whittle Quiz (T) (1089038)
6.30 Family Affairs Jack and Maria finally go on a date (T) (1063090)
7.00 Exclusive (1980274)

Foxcubs recuperating (7.30pm)

7.30 Wildlife SOS A heron is reluctant to return to the wild and foxcubs are found on the same day suffering very different fates (T) (1069274)
8.00 Attractions A family guide to what's on and where to go *(1999922)*
8.30 5 News (1985729)
9.00 Separated by Murder (1994) with Sharon Gless and Steve *Railsback*. A fact-based courtroom drama *about twin sisters who are accused of murdering the* husband of one of them. *Directed by* Donald Wrye (32600941)
10.50 Exclusive Extra (5897458)
11.00 The *Jack Docherty Show* *(1771423)*
11.40 Club Class *Comedy (2287496)*
12.10am News and sport (2409591)
12.15 Live Nude Girls (1995) with Kim Cattrall, *Lora Zane and Dana Delaney. A drama* about a group of friends who organise a slumber party for one of their number who is about to be married. Directed by Julianna Lavin (4377292)
1.55 Thompson's Last Run (1984) with Robert Mitchum and Wilford Brimley. A western about two old friends who find *themselves on opposite sides of the law. Directed by Jerrold Freedman (9461539)*
3.35 Throb *Comedy series (26275305)*
4.00 Night Stand *Spool chat show* (3779336)
4.40 **Prisoner: Cell Block H** (6139997)
5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (r) (5017978)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (210019) **9.00** Regis *and Kathie Lee (74922)* ***10.00*** *Another* World (33090) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (53854) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (29212) **1.00pm** Geraldo (11152) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (19922) **3.00** Jenny Jones (12458) **4.00** Oprah with the Stars (24293) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (8381) **6.00** Real TV *(4651)* ***6.30*** *Married — with Children* (5903) **7.00** The Simpsons (9090) **7.30** M*A*S*H (1187) **8.00** JAG (44545) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (64309) **10.00** High Incident (67496) **11.00** Selina Scott (25922) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (39019) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (67387) **1.00** Hit *Mix (8976526)*

SKY 2

7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (1333458) **8.00** *Melrose Place (1342106)* **9.00** *Pacific* Drive (1355670) **10.00** Tales from the Crypt (35750545) **11.00** Late Show (6840651) **12.00** Hit Mix (8835404)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

7.00am Getting Even with Dad (1994) (49651) **9.00 The Blue Bird (1976)** *(11449477)* ***10.50 A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1966)*** (24773187) **12.30pm Martha and Ethel (1995)** *(1313800)* ***1.50 The Games (1970)*** (42158477) **3.30 Ghost of a Chance (1987)** (60816) **5.00 Homeward Bound (1980)** (96496) **7.00 Getting Even with *Dad (1994)*** (30903) **9.00 Chasers (1994)** (24292835) **10.40 The Shooter (1995)** (39374800) **12.30am Harry and Tonto (1974)** (29442) **2.30 Some *Kind of* Miracle (1979)** *(650862)* **4.05 Homeward Bound (1980)** (736442)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.10am Dark Waters (1944) *(34554495)* ***8.00 The Christmas Coal Mine Miracle*** (1977) (91336) **10.00 Joy of Living (1938)** (19835) **12.00 You Were Never Lovelier (1942)** (21767) **2.00pm Only When I Larf (1968)** (49090) **4.00 The Christmas Coal Mine Miracle (1977)** (1835) **6.00 Three *Ninjas Knuckle Up (1995)*** *(82941)* **7.30 UK Top 10** (7125) **8.00 Forrest Gump (1994)** (12974187) **10.20 When the Dark *Man Calls (1995)*** *(6477545)* ***11.50 Generation X: Twenty Bucks*** **(1993)** *(976859)* **1.25am Dangerous Indiscretion (1994)** (8404862) ***2.50 Made for Each Other (1971)*** (300355) **4.30 The Phantom of the Opera (1987)** (36065)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm No Man of Her Own **(1950)** (8149274) **8.00 War Games (1983)** (8151019) **10.00 Rocky IV (1985)** (2917187) ***11.35 Hell Camp (1986)*** (2159816) **1.15am The Last Detail (1973)** (8435846) **3.00 Frankie and Johnny (1966)** (2116268) ***4.30-5.50 Young Guns of Texas (1962)*** *(61123356)*

TNT

8.00pm WCW Nitro (69301903) **9.00 Knights of the Round Table (1953)** (69304090) **11.00 Another Thin Man (1939)** (14341748) **12.50am The Picture of Dorian Gray (1945)** *(85446012)* **2.45-5.00 Knights of the Round Table (1953)** (88909317)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (70545) **7.30** Wrestling: Superstars (22564) **8.30** Racing News (83545) **9.00** Sports Centre *(81425)* ***9.30*** *Aerobics Oz Style* (10187) **10.00** Skill Sailing (56477) **10.30** Live Golf: Spanish Open (46800) **12.30pm** Snowboard Show (14903) **1.00** US Golf: Greater Greensboro Open (60670) **3.00** Live Golf: Spanish Open (86941) **4.59** Sports Centre (1451903) **5.00** Skill Sailing (7038) ***5.30*** *Netbusters (2212)* **6.00** Sports Centre (22923) **7.00** Super League — Live (830564) **9.30** The Rugby Club (34767) **10.00** *Sports Centre* (98380) **11.00** Hold the Back Page (89293) **12.00** NHL Power Week (80404) **1.00-3.00** Super League (25152)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm End Zone: WLAF Review (4658361) **9.00** Live US Golf: Greater Greensboro Open (4669748) ***11.00-1.00am*** *European Golf: Spanish Open* (3084651)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 BMX Extreme (57365458) **1.00pm** Football League *Review* (57274106) **2.00** Spanish Football (25998477) **3.00** Formula Three Racing (22173309) **4.00** Schoolboy *Football (22152816)* ***5.00*** *Trans World Sport* (21955019) **6.00** BMX Extreme (57287670) **7.00** Live Friday Night Football (69426632) **10.00-12.00** Wrestling: Raw (22165380)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Sailing (84748) **8.00** Drag Racing (55570) **8.30** Motorsports (72835) **9.30** Live *Tennis (8772583)* **5.00pm** Football (56125) **6.30** Ice Hockey (5545) **7.00** Stock-Car Racing (91477) **8.00** Offroad (18075) **9.00** *Tennis (80361)* ***10.00*** *Sumo (90748)* **11.00** Football (74361) **12.00-12.30** Ice Hockey

UK GOLD

7.00am *Singer's Day (1053922)* **7.35** Neighbours (5631699) **8.00** Crossroads (3639816) **8.25** EastEnders (6070038) **9.00** The Bill (1734318) ***9.30*** Don't Wait Up (7352039) **10.00** Robin's Nest (4705632) **10.30** The Sullivans (5534570) **11.00** Casualty (88851361) **12.05pm** Crossroads (87122944) **12.30** Neighbours (3052075) **1.00** EastEnders (8040835) **1.35** The Two Ronnies (4987038) **2.30** For the Love of Ada *(2770274)* **3.00** Goldmaster (3127125) **3.30** The Bill (2782019) **4.00** Boon (5546545) **5.00** Generation Game (30654038) **6.05** EastEnders *(4468458)* ***6.40*** *Sykes* (1369090) **7.20** Russ Abbot (4543019) **7.50** Rising Damp (6668293) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health *(8699651)* ***9.00*** *The Bill (5542729)* **9.30** The Chief (79165477) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (89562941) **12.00 FILM: Tennis Court** (91336355) **1.15am FILM: In Possession** (42844317) **2.30** Shopping at Night (1103572)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5275651) **6.30** Jackson Pace (2121458) **7.00** Coronation Street (4661699) **7.30** Families (4640106) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (4482019) **9.00** The Professionals (5291699) **10.00** Krypton Factor (2145038) **10.30** Doctor on the Go (5308187) **11.00** *Within These Walls* (4659854) **12.00** Coronation Street (5322767) **12.30pm** Families (6165903) ***1.00*** *Albion Market (4653670)* **1.30** The Good Life Guide (6164274) **2.00** First Among Equals (2146767) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3831038) **4.00** Surprise Surprise *(3810545)* ***5.00*** *The Professionals* (5479293) **6.00** Families (1699093) **6.30** Coronation Street (7984485) **7.00** Surprise, Surprise *(2763729)* **8.00** Upstairs Downstairs *(2772477)* **9.00** Coronation Street (3816729) **9.30** The Comedians (6165767) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (2682800)

Harry Shearer and Gloria Gifford (Paramount Comedy, 11.30pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (7328632) **6.25** Quack Attack (7347767) **6.50** Bonkers (1859496) **7.15** *The Little Mermaid* (7288651) **7.40** Aladdin (4249767) **8.05** Quack Pack (1994372) **8.30** Goof Troop (49125) ***9.00*** *The Care Bears (3218274)* **9.25** Pooh Corner (3237309) **9.50** Muppet Babies (8193019) **10.15** Groundling Marsh *(6053816)* ***10.40*** *Sing Me a Story* (1788670) **11.05** Podangton Peas (1652125) **11.10** Big Garage (9595496) **11.25** Lamb Chop's Play Along (2773496) **11.55** Fraggle Rock (5885699) **12.20pm** *Timon and Pumbaa* (9149748) **12.30** Boy Meets World (5514670) **12.55** Timon and Pumbaa *(77388564)* **1.05** Mouse Tracks (16184699) **1.30** Aladdin (3242564) **2.10** Goof Troop (46475187) **2.35** Bonkers (5224019) **3.00** *Quack Attack (1943748)* **3.25** *Timon and* Pumbaa (7084926) **3.35** The Little Mermaid (3547598) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4219019) **4.10** Goof Troop (8035293) **4.35** Quack Pack (9048903) **5.00** Aladdin (4401545) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (5737729) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (203075) **6.00** Sky Trackers *(55274)* **7.00 FILM: Jungle Book** *(66117767)* ***8.50*** *Timon and* Pumbaa (750212) **9.00-10.00** Flipper (35835)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (1375903) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7739699) **7.00** Samurai *Pizza Cats* (6831903) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (6850038) **8.00** Beetleborgs (8279903) **8.30** Crocadoo (8278274) **9.00** Rimba's *Island (4600767)* **9.20** The Magic Box (2045629) **9.45** Zoobilee Zoo (9662729) **10.05** Rimba's Island (6922038) **10.25** The Magic Box (7514545) ***10.55*** *Adventures of Dodo* (84477835) **11.00** Princess Starla (8821090) **11.30** Pinocchio (88390019) **12.00** *Inspector Gadget* (8272090) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (35335019) **12.50** Power Rangers Zeo (35348583) **1.10** Big Bad Beetleborgs (20426477) **1.30** Eek! Stravaganza (7144545) **2.00** Life with Louie (4216477) **2.30** Crocadoo (3982125) **3.00** Gadget Boy (4228213) **3.30** Eek! *Stravaganza (3987670)* **4.00** Life with Louie (3973477) **4.30** Power Rangers Zeo (3962361) **5.00** Beetleborgs (4207729) **5.30** Spiderman (3966941) ***6.00*** *Goosebumps (3983854)* **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3974106)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (17187) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (97496) **8.00** Batman (40800) **8.30** Art Attack (53699) **9.00** Flash *Gordon* (36851) ***9.30*** *Bobby's World* (72941) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (51545) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (32835) ***11.00*** *Danger Mouse (91903)* ***11.30*** Gravedale High (92632) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (23187) **12.30pm** Halfway *Across the Galaxy* (50729) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (42552) **1.30** Black Beauty (79800) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (9274) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (7922) **3.00** Art Attack (8309) **3.30** Flash *Gordon* (9767) **4.00** Batman (8274) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from ***5.00am*** *to* **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula *(88390)* **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life (63767) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (78187) **7.30** Rugrats (60922) **8.00** *Doug (82816)* **8.30** Arthur *(81187)* **9.00** CBBC (27038) **10.00** Wimzie's House (54019) **10.30** Babar (94651) **11.00** Magic *School Bus (53729)* ***11.30*** *Mr Men/King* Rollo/Barney/Topsy and Tim/Skylark (54458) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (85903) **12.30pm** *Little Bear Stories* (12545) **1.00** CBBC (37800) **2.00** The Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (1800) **2.30** Kissyfur (6038) **3.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (3835) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (1583) **4.00** *Jumanji* (7390) **4.30** Rugrats (6274) **5.00** Sister Sister (8380) **5.30** Moesha (7534) **6.00** Press *Gang (7787)* **6.30-7.00** *Doug (8019)*

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (5651800) **1.00am** *Madison (4585800)* **1.30** *Sweet Valley High* (6107944) **2.00** Hangtime (3100458) **2.30** California Dreams (2798670) **3.00** Byker Grove (3112293) ***3.30*** *No Naked Flames* (2777187) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2789922) **4.30** Hangtime (2785106) **5.00** *Saved by the Bell* (3124038) **5.30** California Dreams (2776458) **6.00** Byker Grove (2706699) **6.30** Madison (2780651) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (9077496)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (9053816) (3113922) **8.30** The New Twilight Zone (3109729) **9.00** Hammer House of Horror *(9068380)* ***10.00*** *Tour of Duty (9078767)* **11.00 FILM: Virgin Witch** (9772598) **1.00am** Starsky and Hutch (4783572) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9778881) **3.00 FILM: Virgin Witch** (4260355) **5.00** The New Twilight *Zone (4397997)*

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (5816) **7.30** *Roseanne (7903)* ***8.00*** Roseanne (4564) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (3699) **9.00** Cheers (66293) **9.30** Cybill (32309) **10.00** Frasier (89632) **10.30** Garry Shandling (95380) **11.00** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (78038) **11.30** This Is Spinal Tap (96903) **1.00am** Cheers (73201) ***1.30*** *Cybill (29978)* ***2.00*** *Entertainment UK* (41775) **2.30** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (53510) **3.00** Frasier (93065) **3.30-4.00** *Garry Shandling (44862)*

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am FILM: Gremloids (1998751) **2.40** Star Wars Trilogy: The Force Returns (28952365) **3.10** Earthscan Special Report (94960201) **3.40-4.00** New Buzz Bytes (91986688)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00pm The Joy of Painting (2083800) **9.30** Gardener's Diary (3957421) **10.00** The *Great Gardening Plot (4703274)* ***10.30*** Doing It Up (7334552) **11.00** The Painted House (5553835) **11.30** This Old House *with Steve and Norm (5554564)* ***12.00*** *Yan* Can Cook (3539944) **12.30am** Graham Kerr (5852057) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (4661274) **1.30** *Home Again with Bob Vila* (6202598) **2.00** Hometime (3106632) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2778816) **3.00** Two's Country Cooking (3125767) **3.30-4.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm (2773361)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm *Fishing Adventures II (2782496)* **4.30** *Roadshow (2781380)* **5.00** Terra X (3120212) **5.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (2772632) **6.00** Savannah Watch (4202318) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (3117748) **7.30** Disaster (2799309) **8.00** Jurassica (9059090) **9.00** Medical Detectives *(5573699)* **9.30** *Medical Detectives* (9252813) **10.00** Justice Files (9072941) **11.00** The Driven Man (4671651) **12.00** *Classic Wheels (9956132)* **1.00am** Disaster (1486355) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000 (6021620)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm *Ancient Mysteries* (1158125) ***5.00*** Memories of the Bible (7168835) **6.00** The Most Decorated (8549980) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Ava Gardner (4673941)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour.
5.05pm Blockbusters (7432877) **5.50** Family Fortunes (653336) ***6.30*** *Catchphrase* (943854) **7.05** Sale of the Century (824962) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (898125) **8.20** All Clued Up (930835) **9.00** Through the *Keyhole* (271380) ***9.35*** *Busman's Holiday* (173309) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (624816) **11.20** Love at First Sight (499632) **12.00** *Sale of the Century (35256)* ***12.30am*** *Hart* to Hart (63423) **1.30 FILM: Wind Dancer** (34249) **3.30** My Two Dads (99336) **4.00-5.00** The Fall Guy (58143)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (35618941) **9.05** *Gladrags and Glamour* (5749835) **9.15** The Gordon Elliott Show (6265090) **10.05** Jerry Springer Uncut (7131767) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (84770019) **11.50** The New *Mr and Mrs Show (2745361)* ***12.25pm*** *Why* Me? Real Life Case Studies (89574944) **12.55** Tempestt (8315632) **1.40** Rolonda *(8651583)* ***2.30*** *The Agony Experience* (9102309) **3.00** Live at Three (26792835) **4.05** The Jerry Springer Show (9589274) ***5.05*** *Lingo (79369903)* ***5.30*** *Lucky Ladders* (9106125) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (3254816) **6.35** The Heat Is On (2643361) ***7.05*** *Hearts Afire* (1588496) **7.35** Infatuation UK (2297651) **8.05** Rolonda (5094941) **9.00 FILM: Kate's Secret** (8141632) **11.00-12.00** The Spicy Sex Files (2583583)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.00** ZEE Calling **8.30** Shri Krishna **9.00** Punjabi Folk **9.30** *Yaadon Ke Rang* ***10.00*** Cinemagic **10.30** Tumhara Sahara **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratain **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00 FILM: En Veedu en Kanavar** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** Kamal Kombination **4.45** Saanp Seedi **5.15** Young Buzz **6.00** Beeji Ke Pg **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Stru Chale Che? **7.30** Ashaa **8.00** News **8.35** Parampara **9.05-12.00 FILM: Vishwasghaat**

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, *reviews*, live concert footage, interviews and the latest *music* video *charts*

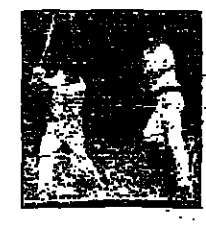
VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

RACING 44-45
Connery spies glory chance at Punchestown

SPORT

CRICKET 48-49
Reports from every first class match



Juventus back changes to final stages

Uefa consider new format for European Cup

By John Goodbody

JUVENTUS, backed by several leading clubs, including Manchester United, have proposed a week-long climax to the European Cup with the semi-finals and the final all played in the same country.

The plan put forward by the Italian club, who are the holders and meet Borussia Dortmund, of Germany, in the final in Munich on May 28, has been given unofficial approval by Uefa, European football's governing body. The proposal is to abandon the present format of two-legged semi-finals and a final some weeks later in favour of a week-long tournament of knockout matches. This would also allow Uefa to change the qualifying European Champions' League from six groups of four clubs to a more natural four groups of six.

Referring to the plan of Roberto Bettega, the Juventus managing director, Fritz Ahlström, a Uefa spokesman, said: "All the other quarter-finalists reacted very positively and so did Uefa. That means we will discuss it, but it would not be possible before the 1998-99 season."

The main motivation to recast the competition is money. Although attendances in the final stages would be smaller than the present system of home-and-away ties, television companies and sponsors would be excited by the idea of a concentrated climax to the tournament. Uefa has already raised more than £400 million from the first five years of the Champions' League and plans to match that figure in the next three.

The gross revenue from the competition this year is more than £100 million, even more than Euro 96, although, of course, there are far more games in the annual European Champions' League for clubs than in the quadrennial European championship for countries. With 38 television companies and eight leading sponsors each paying a minimum of £2 million up to Ford's estimated £10 million, the income from the tournament is growing all the time. Jürgen Lenz, the director of TEAM Marketing AG, which markets the Champions' League for Uefa, said that the tournament will remain predominantly a free product for television viewers well beyond 2000. In England, ITV has the rights until 2000.

Lenz said: "This is a competition with such massive appeal that we have to deliver it to the widest possible audience. I believe that, until maybe 2010, there is absolutely no question that the tournament will remain on free TV."

'There will be changes and some will come from within' — Alex Ferguson on the aftermath of Manchester United's European Cup exit

Oliver Holt, page 46

Next season, 56 teams will be competing in the European Cup. They will consist of the 48 champions from Uefa's member countries and the eight runners-up from Uefa's eight leading countries, which include England. The preliminary round will be played over two legs, on July 23 and July 30, and the FA Carling Premiership champions and runners-up are exempt, although Rangers will be expected to enter at this stage.

The eight runners-up will join in for the next round, on August 13 and 27. After this, clubs qualify for the 24-strong Champions' League, for which the champions of the eight seeded countries get automatic entry.

Lenz said that there were two reasons for the changes. "In the first place, there is the view that every champion is entitled to have a chance to qualify for the Uefa Champions' League. The fact that a club such as Rosenborg BK [of Norway] reached the quarter-finals supports this idea," he said.

"There must always be a space for an outsider, because that is one of the charms of top football. That is how the world discovered teams such as Cameroon and Nigeria.

"However, the second point is that a high level of quality must be maintained. There must be a sort of guarantee that the Uefa Champions' League must present the best that European club football has to offer. The new qualifying system is designed to ensure that this is the case."

Uefa, meanwhile, is adamant that it will not allow future winners of the English League Cup automatic entry into the Uefa Cup until the Premiership complies with its request to reduce its membership to 18. Leicester City, as Coca-Cola League Cup-winners this season, will be the last club to have the privilege of entry.

☐ Roberto Baggio, the AC Milan international, is a surprise inclusion in the Italy squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Poland in Naples on Wednesday. His call-up may have been prompted by concern from Cesare Maldini, the national coach, over the fitness of Gianfranco Zola, the Chelsea striker, who has a hamstring injury.

Baggio, 30, whose international career looked to have come to an end under Arrigo Sacchi, the former Italy manager, has ironically found favour again at a time when he has struggled to get into the Milan side — now managed by Sacchi. Baggio has won 45 caps, but last played for Italy in their 1-0 win over Slovenia in September 1995.

Bruguera serves during his third-round defeat by Santoro in Monte Carlo yesterday. The Spaniard offered little resistance in the final set

Santoro claims another notable scalp

By Our Sports Staff

FABRICE SANTORO, of France, added another big-name player to his collection yesterday, when he eliminated Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the third round of the Monte Carlo Open.

Santoro, the world No 90, knocked out Thomas Muster, the world No 2 from Austria, in the second round and has now beaten two of the leading clay-court tennis players in the world in three days. Both are former French Open champions and, between them, they have won five Monte Carlo Open titles.

"I had not won many matches before coming here, so these two victories are very important to me," Santoro, 24, said. "I rank them among the three or four best wins in my career."

The secret of Santoro's success yesterday, as it had been against Muster on Tuesday, was his variation of stroke and change of style away from a baseline-dominated game.

"This year, I realised that I could not go on like that if I wanted to make a career in tennis," Santoro said. "I was a ball fiddler. My game belonged to the Seventies more than the Nineties.

"I have tried to be more aggressive the last few months because my game is not that powerful," Santoro said. "I have tried to come to the net more, rather than win points from the back."

He also tested Bruguera with slices and charged the net frequently. "The last few tournaments I have won a lot of points racing into the net, so I am beginning to feel altogether more comfortable there," Santoro added.

After losing the first set, the Frenchman raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set and, although Bruguera broke back and levelled the scores, Santoro regained the initiative by breaking Bruguera's service again to take the set 7-5.

Santoro started the deciding set as he had the second, by taking a 3-0 lead. Bruguera seemed unable to raise his game, Santoro winning 12 points in succession and hitting three aces in the seventh game to close out the match.

In a tournament that has thrown up a string of surprise results, ten of the top 16 players have failed to get past the second round including Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Muster, who were all eliminated in one afternoon.

Magnus Larsson, who beat Sampras, reached the fourth round yesterday with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, and now meets Marcelo Rios, of Chile, who overcame Alberto Costa, the losing finalist last year, 7-6, 6-4.

Rios, seeded seventh, was gaining revenge for his semi-final defeat by Costa 12 months ago. In a match that produced some of the finest rallies of the week, Rios was able to raise his game when he needed it, winning the first-set tie-break 7-3 and making a vital break in the ninth game of the second set.

The Chilean clearly relishes the surface and is approaching his peak at the right time for the French Open next month. "I was born on clay," Rios said. "I love to play on clay but, when you play as well as I did today, the surface doesn't matter." Rios has had a lacklustre season so far, reaching only one ATP Tour final.

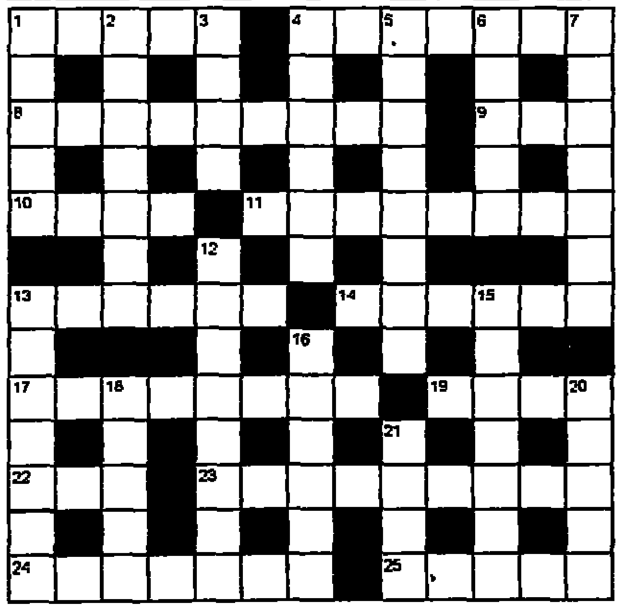
Other winners yesterday included Christian Ruud, of Norway, who beat Emilio Alvarez, the Spanish qualifier, 4-7, 7-6, 6-1, and Carlos Costa, another Spanish qualifier, who mastered Arnaud Boetsch, of France, 6-4, 7-5. Yet another Spaniard, Alex Corretja, progressed with a 4-6, 7-6, 6-0 victory over Bohdan Ulihrach, of the Czech Republic, the winner of the Estoril tournament two weeks ago.

Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion from Holland, made short work of Mark Philippoussis, the talented young Australian, winning 6-3, 6-2.

In the LTA satellite tournament in Bournemouth yesterday, Julie Pullin, of Sussex, the national champion, made smooth progress into the last four with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Claire Taylor, the second seed from Oxfordshire. Pullin now faces Nathaly Tijssen, of Holland, for a place in the final.

Elsewhere on the women's scene, Martina Hingis, the world No 1, is reportedly making a good recovery after an operation to repair ligaments in her left knee, which she injured in a fall while horse-riding on Monday.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1077

ACROSS
1 Engender (5)
4 1950s hippie (7)
8 (Can't do something) at all (3,6)
9 Like Marvell's mistress (3)
10 Tracked road vehicle (4)
11 Showing remorse (8)
13 Blurred (eyes) (6)
14 Talk boringly, at length: exactly (4.2)
17 Agra mausoleum (3,5)
19 Insincerely fluent (4)
22 Falstaff's Prince (3)
23 Abandoning (*all other*, BCP) (9)
24 Use of plural for *I* (5,2)
25 One prejudiced (5)

DOWN
1 Be suitable for (5)
2 Relevant (7)
3 You (*arch.*) (4)
4 Shock-absorber; old fool (*slang*) (6)
5 One from New World (8)
6 Recess (for statue) (5)
7 A noble gas; Superman planet (7)
12 Appalling (8)
13 Meat seller (7)
15 Irritating; making sore (7)
16 *Peter Pan* author (6)
18 Wobbly sweet (5)
20 Coastal indentation (5)
21 Smear (paint) roughly (4)

The solution to 1076 will be published Wednesday, April 30

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Senna death trial 'irrelevant'

By Michael Calvin

MAX MOSLEY, the most powerful political figure in world motor sport, yesterday condemned the indignities endured by Frank Williams, in answering charges of culpable homicide at the trial arising from the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in 1994, as "outrageous".

The president of the International Motor Sport Federation (Fia) dismissed the trial, which has been postponed until after the San Marino Grand Prix at the Italian track this weekend, as a "complete irrelevance" to Formula One.

The strength of his feelings, widely shared within the sport, will inevitably renew speculation about the long-term future of Formula One in Italy, if exisiting legislation, which demands that blame be apportioned for any racing accident, is not amended.

"What has happened to Frank Williams is outrageous," Mosley, who has quietly become the most influential British administrator in world sport, said. "He has never been allowed to see Senna's car. On any rational basis, how can he be criminally responsible for what happened? It beggars belief.

"In terms of Formula One, the trial is a complete irrelevance. In Senna's case, we know how he died. He was hit by the wheel and the suspension. Our interest is not in why he went off the road, but in what we can do to make sure such an accident never happens again. Over the past three years we have taken many steps to do so.

"We do so in the knowledge that Formula One is a human business. Drivers make mistakes, mechanics make mistakes, engineers make mistakes. There is a crash at every single grand prix, at every single track. Our job is to make sure that, when those crashes occur, no one is hurt."

Williams is one of six men who deny the charges. Other defendants include Patrick Head, technical director of the Williams-Renault team, and Adrian Newey, its erstwhile chief designer. The prosecution alleges that Senna crashed because a badly designed modification resulted in the failure of the steering column.

"If the Italians really want to have an enormous legal process then that is their right," Mosley, a trained lawyer, said. "I happen to think everyone will be found not guilty but, even if they are not, the appeals process is likely to go on for between eight and 12 years.

"That, in one way, is one of the worst aspects of the trial. It is a waste of time. If we want to race in Italy, we will do so under their laws, but maybe that question will come under consideration in the future."

The obvious implication, that Italy could be isolated, should not be underestimated. Fia sanctions more than 30 motor sports events in the country, including grands prix at Imola and Monza, whose traditions do not offer complete protection, given that Formula One is looking to expand its horizons in Asia.

The teams accept the restrictions of civil liability, but resent their vulnerability to criminal prosecution.

Testing return, page 43

Clubs prepare bitter-sweet goodbyes

Nick Szczepanik looks at the passing of some of football's most familiar stadiums

When Bolton Wanderers kick off against Charlton Athletic tonight, it will mark the beginning of the end for five famous football grounds, all of which have staged top-level football. The final competitive match at Burnden Park will be followed, in close order, by those at the Goldstone Ground, Roker Park, the Victoria Ground and the Baseball Ground.

For Bolton, Sunderland, Stoke City and Derby County, it will be a bitter-sweet experience. There are new stadiums to look forward to and much-loved if inconvenient, uncomfortable and old-fashioned enclosures to mourn. Bolton will play at the 25,000-capacity Reebok Stadium at Horwich in the FA Carling Premiership next season, with the Nationwide League first division championship safely wrapped up already, and will be hoping that souvenir hunters display patience and ignore the chance to walk home with a piece of the pitch. Local teams will be paying for the privilege of playing on it and then it is being dug up and sold off in five-metre squares at an auction on June 1.

Derby, too, want to discourage informal dismantling of the Baseball Ground after Arsenal's visit on May 11. A testimonial will follow on the next Wednesday and there will be reserve games and some pre-season games staged this summer, since Pride Park will not be handed over by the contractors until mid-July.

Sunderland, 99 years at Roker Park, have decided to hold a special farewell game a safe distance away from the tensions inherent in their last home league game against Everton, but their mid-May match at Roker against Liverpool, the first visitors in 1898, promises to be the biggest of the "wakes". A veritable pageant of Roker history will precede the match.

Stoke will also face the Victoria Ground's first visitors — West Bromwich Albion, 119 years ago — in its final game on May 4, but in a scheduled league fixture. Martin Smith, of the *Oatcake* fanzine, said: "It's a bit of football history going: the oldest league ground in the world, the longest continuous occupancy and the largest remaining terrace. It's got character, but character alone isn't enough. It's a Darwinian thing — evolve or die."

Brighton are not so lucky. Although their off-field difficulties, which were precipitated by the sale of the Goldstone Ground, now appear to have been resolved, club officials have had little opportunity to organise any formal recognition of the passing of the club's home of 93 years. Instead, supporters will observe a two-minute silence before the final home game, against Doncaster Rovers tomorrow.

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